



Legislative Newsletter

June 2023

Senate Budget Bill Released Next Week

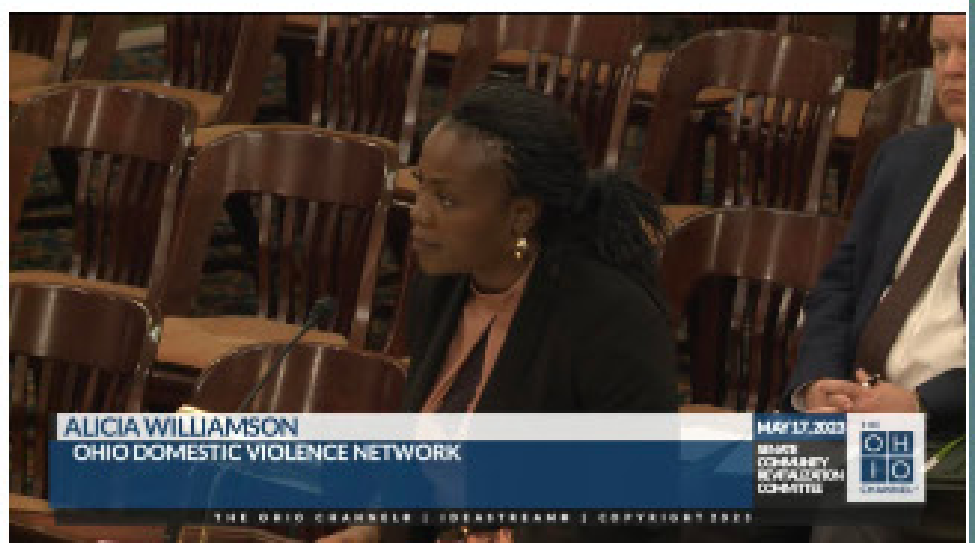
On May 30th, ODVN's Policy Director Maria York testified before the Senate Finance Committee on the state's budget bill, HB 33. The bill includes ODVN's full request of \$20 million for Ohio's domestic violence programs over the biennium. The bill with the Senate's amendments is expected to be released June 6th, with a potential vote the following week. [Read our full testimony here.](#)



State Issues

S.B. 90: Social Work Licensure Compact

The bill would allow social workers in Ohio and several other states to enter an interstate occupational licensure compact and allow them to practice with a multistate license. [Read our full testimony here.](#)



Alicia Williamson, Director of Training and Program Services, testified before the Senate Community Revitalization Committee in support of S.B. 90.

H.B. 111: 3rd Degree Felony Domestic Violence

ODVN testified in support of H.B. 111 before the House Criminal Justice Committee. The bill would increase the sentencing range for third-degree felony domestic violence offenses and establishes a presumption in favor of a prison term. A presumption of prison time can provide victims of domestic violence with time to work with advocates on long-term safety plans, particularly around financial security and safe housing. [Read our full testimony here.](#)

Federal Issues

Sign-On Letter of Support: LIFT the BAR Act (LTBA)

In 1996, Congress passed restrictive welfare and immigration legislation that created unnecessary barriers, including an arbitrary five-year waiting-period—often referred to as “the five-year bar”—in some programs that delays access to critical benefits and services for immigrants. The LIFT the BAR Act restores access to programs by removing the five-year bar and other barriers that deny critical care and aid to people who are lawfully present. This includes people with “green cards,” **crime victims**, and other noncitizens residing lawfully in the United States.

What can you do? Congress needs to hear that removing the 5-year bar is a priority. To that end, please sign a national letter of support for the bill. The letter will be sent to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries to encourage swift action to pass the LIFT the BAR Act.

Where do I sign? You can read the letter text [here](#) and use [this form](#) to sign your organization on to the letter. Thank you for taking action!

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