February 2024

Gun Violence Prevention Summit

The Ohio House Democrats are sponsoring a Gun Violence Prevention Summit from 10am to 12:45pm on Feb. 15 in the Ohio Statehouse atrium. ODVN’s Policy Counsel, Lisa DeGeeter, will participate in a panel with Minority Leader Allison Russo, Rep. Michelle Grim, and public safety and health stakeholders. For more information and to register, please click here.

State Issues

S.B. 187

In December Assistant Minority Leader Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus), Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and Senator Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) announced their plans to introduce four gun control bills.

ODVN supports all the bills but is especially excited about S.B. 187, which would prohibit individuals with a misdemeanor domestic violence conviction from possessing a firearm. Although federal law already prohibits such individuals from possessing firearms, gaps in Ohio law subvert the federal statute.

Senate Bill 184 would give Ohioans the option to temporarily relinquish their ability to purchase or possess a firearm if they believe they are at risk of self-harm. Senate Bills 188 and 189 provide gun owners with the option to safely store and handle their firearms.

H.B. 385

Last month, in honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, State Representatives Tracy Richardson (R-Marysville) and Josh Williams (R-Sylvania) introduced the Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act that will expunge certain non-violent crimes for victims of human trafficking. Click here to watch the press conference.

Federal Issues

Continue VOCA Advocacy!

As Congress works to pass appropriations bills before the March 2024 deadlines, we need your help telling them that a 40% cut to VOCA will be devastating and dangerous for survivors: Congress needs to act now!

Send an email directly to your member of Congress and Senators. We’ve included specific information about the VOCA funds, but please add information about your program or personal story.

House Passes Bipartisan Tax Bill

Last month the House passed a $78 billion bipartisan tax package that would temporarily expand the child tax credit and enhance the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit in an effort to increase the supply of low-income housing. The bill also contains relief for those affected by disasters, including the Ohio train derailment in East Palestine last year. Read more...

Missed the previous legislative updates email? Read last month’s newsletter.