



OAESV Speakers
Advocate Privilege Press Conference
September 12, 2019

Rosa Beltré

Executive Director, Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

“This legislation is a priority bill for the OAESV, as it would empower survivors to decide if, and when, they tell their story. Many OAESV employees have worked in states with advocate privilege - they and our counterparts across the country know that the increased confidentiality leads more survivors toward feeling empowered to report abuse.”

“The role of an advocate cannot function without confidentiality, and Ohio’s lack of advocate privilege creates the potential for deeply damaging breaches.”

“Survivors deserve a safe space to talk about the crimes they suffer, a safe space to discuss options and resources, a safe space that cannot be compromised to cause the survivor employment consequences, victim blaming, shame, punishment from family members, education barriers, or safety concerns.”

Camille Crary

Director of Legal Services & Public Policy, Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

“Survivors in Ohio deserve the same privacy protections afforded in the vast majority of states. Advocate privilege works in those jurisdictions, not just for survivors and rape crisis programs, but also for rape crisis programs and criminal justice system actors. The dynamics of sexual violence involve trauma, abuse, secrecy, and exploitation. Someone in the center of those dynamics must have confidence that they can begin their pursuit of healing and justice in a space that does not threaten their privacy.”

Molly McMath

Executive Director, COMPASS (Sexual Assault Education, Prevention, & Support)

“Survivors face continued victimization when they relive the incident through legal proceedings, often with little to no control over the situation. When advocates are forced to testify, survivors lose yet more control and autonomy in their own case, increasing the experience of victimization.

Pam Prisbylla

Survivor

“This is exactly the support sexual assault victims need from being rendered powerless to becoming strong powerful survivors. I am grateful for this bill, which supports survivors on this journey by providing them with statutorily protected confidentiality - something that will only increase trust in advocacy and the justice process.”

Sarah Trimble

Chief External Affairs Officer, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

“It has been our experience, time and time again, that survivors expect privacy and support when they are making a decision about how to engage with the criminal justice system.”

Sophia Fifner, M.S.

Mrs Ohio United States 2019, Survivor

“Supporting Advocate Privilege means supporting young women like me. It means providing young girls with the confidence to speak openly about the support and services they need to survive.”

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