
OHIO ALLIANCE TO END
SEXUAL VIOLENCE

2024 Public Policy Agenda

The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence serves as Ohio's sexual violence coalition. State sexual assault coalitions are the main training and technical assistance providers for rape crisis centers.

OAESV advocates on behalf of rape crisis centers and the survivors they serve at the state and federal levels.

SHAPE OHIO TOGETHER

2024 Public Policy Priorities

Eliminate the "Spousal Rape" Loophole

Despite advances in state policy to protect and support survivors, Ohio maintains an outdated and harmful loophole - [that in some situations, makes it legal for a person to rape their spouse](#). It has far surpassed the time to eliminate this loophole from our state code. In 2024, OAESV will advocate for the passage of [House Bill 161](#) to eliminate this loophole.

Expand Housing Protections for SV Survivors

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated housing insecurity for many Ohioans. While there are systems in place to protect and support domestic violence survivors with housing, few protections exist for sexual violence survivors. Improving rental protections and options to terminate leases will improve safety for survivors OAESV supports [House Bill 143](#), which will allow certain victim-survivors to terminate a rental agreement or change their locks if they meet certain conditions.

Prohibit intimate exams on unconscious patients

Current Ohio law does not prohibit nurses, physicians, students, or other healthcare providers from conducting an "intimate examination" on unconscious, anesthetized patients. Informed consent to medical treatment is a fundamental protection in both medical ethics and law. Exams without consent can be traumatizing and detrimental to patients, or re-traumatizing to survivors of sexual violence.

Establish Testimonial Privilege for Victim Advocates

Currently in Ohio, an advocate can be compelled by prosecutors, defense attorneys, as well as attorneys on both sides of a civil matter, to testify in court and/or turn over documentation of their interactions with survivors. This means that personal information about survivors could be shared against their wishes. Establishing privilege for advocates would prevent further violations of survivors' trust and protect survivors' confidentiality.

Ongoing Public Policy Priorities

Anti-Oppression

OAESV intentionally centers anti-oppression as a key principle across all areas of our strategic planning, programming, and public policy development. All survivors deserve justice, safety, and equitable access to systems and resources they can trust. People experiencing oppression must be at the forefront of our systems and policy change work to mitigate further harm and enact equitable policies.

Prevention Education & Public Health

OAESV is committed to growing the reach of prevention education across Ohio. Passing Erin's Law in 2022 brought us one step closer to this goal. We will continue to support prevention work statewide and policies that positively impact public health for Ohioans.

Survivor Access to Safe & Affordable Healthcare

Every survivor deserves the ability to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. We remain invested in safeguarding survivors' right to bodily autonomy and safe healthcare — including mental health resources.

Title IX & Education

For years, OAESV has led the state in Title IX training and technical assistance. As the U.S. Department of Education continues its efforts to improve the Title IX Rule, OAESV will advocate for educational regulations and policies at the state and federal levels that are survivor-centered and trauma-informed.

Extend Statutes of Limitations

[The average age of reporting child sexual abuse is about 52 years.](#) Regardless of their age at the time of the violence, most survivors come forward and are met with arbitrary deadlines for filing legal claims — known as statutes of limitation (“SOLs”) — that have expired in Ohio. OAESV is committed to eliminating civil and criminal SOLs for survivors.



Questions about OAESV's public policy work?

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