

Fact Sheet

Ohio Safe Homes Act (No bill introduced yet)

Led by: Rep. Grim, Rep. Melanie Miller



Legislative Proposal

Survivors of domestic violence and/ or sexual violence generally cannot break a lease without penalty and may still owe remaining rent or fees or damage to their rental history, if they do end a lease early after experiencing violence.

The Safe Homes Act would allow survivors to leave unsafe housing situations without facing financial penalties, including the ability to terminate a lease early if they have experienced sexual violence or domestic violence. It also helps survivors take immediate steps to protect themselves, such as changing locks to prevent an abuser from entering their home.

Importantly, the bill protects survivors from retaliation by landlords, ensuring they cannot be penalized for using these protections.

Talking Points

The Ability to Leave Safely Without Financial Penalty

Survivors are often forced to stay in unsafe homes because breaking a lease can lead to debt, eviction, or housing instability. This bill removes that barrier and allows survivors to prioritize their safety.

Immediate Protection from Harm

The ability to change locks or leave quickly can be critical in dangerous situations and gives survivors tools to create distance from an abuser right away, reducing the risk of continued violence.

Note

This bill is not introduced yet. Exact proposal(s) made by the bill may change.

OAESV's Position

Access to safe housing can be the deciding factor on whether a victim survives violence and whether they can thrive when rebuilding their lives.

OAESV supports this proposal because it increases options for survivors by eliminating penalties and protecting rental histories that can follow survivors long after the violence stops.