

Sample Letter to the Editor: What Happened in Steubenville Happens Here

[Date]

Dear Editor:

As the Steubenville trial unfolds, we must remember three important points:

- 1. Rape happens at high rates in every community.**
- 2. Believe survivors when they disclose abuse.**
- 3. Preventing sexual violence is possible.**

Communities across Ohio need to invest in preventing and responding to rape through training, funding and policy change.

- Only 42% of Ohio's counties have access to rape crisis programs and even less have primary prevention programs.
- Rape survivors who had an advocate had a police report taken 59% of the time vs. 41% for those who did not have an advocate. Further, survivors working with an advocate had their incident investigated 24% of the time vs. 8% of the time for those who did not have an advocate.
- Every state surrounding Ohio provides dedicated state level funding to rape crisis centers except Ohio.

To effect change, we must address these three issues: Acknowledge that rape is a public health issue, believe and support survivors, and invest in addressing sexual violence. Rape does not just happen in Steubenville, and it takes our community working together to address this issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name], [Your Title]

[Your Organization]

[Organization Address]

[Phone]

[Email]