

Human Rights Committee

2022 Resolution

1. Darrell Lausche- 795- Chair
2. Mona Al-Huyani- 250
3. Dan Reinhart- 250
4. Jacqueline Washington- 250
5. Julie Dull- 4595
6. Katy Hess- 1080
7. Stephanie Henderson- 279
8. Justin Willis Sr.- 279
9. Chandra Gardner- 1520
10. Sonya Thacker- 1520
11. Kimberly Toben- 1520
12. Thomas Luvison- 279-R
13. Carolyn Pavel- 795
14. Corin Fonseca- 1080

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS

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4 WHEREAS, according to the most recent FBI Crime in the United States report, 5,731 rapes
5 were reported in Ohio for 2021, so far; and

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7 WHEREAS, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), 2 out of 3
8 rapes go unreported nationally; and

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10 WHEREAS, systemic gender-inequality, toxic masculinity, and power imbalances foster an
11 environment that perpetuates and promotes violence; and

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13 WHEREAS, nationally, those aged 12-24 are at the highest risk of rape and sexual assault, with a
14 majority of sexual assault victims being under 30; and

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16 WHEREAS, nationally, women aged 16-19 are 4 times more likely than the general population
17 to be victims of rape and sexual assault; and

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19 WHEREAS, nationally, 21% of transgender, gender queer, and gender nonconforming college
20 students have been sexually assaulted; and

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22 WHEREAS, the establishment of new technologies has led to the establishment of new crimes of
23 sexual violence - revenge porn, sextortion (online sexual extortion), and the electronic
24 dissemination of child pornography - new statutes of limitations must be made to keep up with
25 advancements of technology and social media; and

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27 WHEREAS, according to the 2018 National Sexual Violence Resource Center's data of reported
28 rapes: 51.1% of women are raped by an intimate partner, 40.8% of women are raped by an
29 acquaintance, and 52.4% of men are raped by an acquaintance; and

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WHEREAS, in the state of Ohio, first degree rape does not apply to victims who are married to their assaulter unless the offender impairs the other’s judgement or control by surreptitiously drugging or deceiving them; and

WHEREAS, statutes of limitations are written and decided on by state policymakers leaving each state to its own set of statute of limitations laws—these laws can be different, even when the crimes are the same; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has a criminal statute of limitations on rape and sexual battery of 25 years after commission, conspiracy, complicity or attempt to commit the offense; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, HB 249 was to enact section 2307.48 of the Revised Code to grant a survivor of sexual misconduct committed during a specified period by a physician employed by a land grant university a right of action against the university in response to allegations of sexual abuse by Ohio State University Dr. Richard Strauss; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, HB 249 was introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives on May 16, 2019, then to the Civil Justice committee where it died, closing the hope of sexual assault survivors in Ohio to receive any kind of legal or emotional closure; and

WHEREAS, the argument posed by Ohio State Representative Bill Seitz that the extension or elimination of statutes of limitations will open the floodgates and create an undue burden on the courts is not supported by any evidence in states that have eliminated or expanded their statutes of limitations; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) asserts that ALL survivors of sexual assault have a right to due process that creates a path toward legal relief and closure, regardless of the length of time before they come forth, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT encourages its members to call their state officials and demand HB 249 (2019), or a similar bill that includes language that eliminates the statute of limitations for sexual assault in the state of Ohio be reintroduced in the Ohio House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT demands the legislative language include ALL sexual assault survivors, not just survivors of sexual misconduct committed during a specified period by a physician employed by a land grant university, as written in HB 249 (2019); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the OFT advocates for the passage of legislation that would allow ALL sexual assault survivors legal relief and closure for their experiences.