

Sometimes from evil, comes an opportunity to do good work. We stand here today with that opportunity, announcing grants that will ensure that victims of sexual violence will not be left in the shadows to suffer in silence.

There has been much debate regarding the NCAA sanctions against Penn State University in the horrific wake of the crimes committed by Jerry Sandusky. One thing was immediately clear to me, this money needed to stay in the state of Pennsylvania and go towards the victims of our great Commonwealth.

Thankfully we have leaders in our midst who felt the same way and fought hard against many odds to ensure that the money stayed here in Pennsylvania, to them I say thank you. Thank you to Senator Jake Corman who introduced and fought for the 2013 Endowment Act legislation. Senator Corman was steadfast and determined in his fight taking it all the way up to the courts, to do good for the victims in PA. With the Endowment Act in place Senator Corman made sure not only

that this money would stay in the Commonwealth but that this money would be spent with purposeful intent to assist child victims of sexual violence and to require a process of distribution that was inclusive, objective and thoughtful.

Which brings me to my next thank you, and that is to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. I have sat as a Commissioner at PCCD for over 14 years and am proud to say that PCCD is a national leader in criminal justice and specifically on victim's issues. **PCCD was the only logical and appropriate choice for the disbursement of these funds.** With the dynamic duo of Linda Rosenberg and then PCCD Chair Mark Zimmer, their leadership from the beginning was to ensure this money had effective oversight, ethical disbursement and inclusion of all justice and victim service professionals at its core. They fought hard for the child victims of this Commonwealth and I thank them!

Fast forward to today, with the addition of Chairman Shapiro's leadership we are releasing the first round of grants for the Endowment

Act. This money is going to make a significant impact on the lives of victims. I worked with many of the victims and families directly impacted by Sandusky, as well as the hundreds of victims of child sexual abuse who after witnessing the bravery of these young men began to come forward seeking services.

However, a few things were painfully clear as this began to happen...as a state we were lacking in certain service areas...we did not have enough trained trauma therapists to provide adequate and effective trauma therapy to these survivors, we did not have Child Advocacy Center's within a reasonable distance for all of the Commonwealth's affected children and their families and lastly- many of our traditional victim service doors were not as gender inclusive or ready to serve the sudden surge in male victims who began to come forward seeking services as we would have liked.

I am proud to say that with these grants and the dedication and hard work by victim services professionals, district attorney's and the

leadership of our Chairman, we are moving forward in all three of these areas. To them, I say Thank You!

Victim Services has struggled for years with little to no increases in the various funding streams that fund our services, in some years we have seen drastic cuts and even the zeroing out of line items. Victim's services funding has unfortunately ebbed and flowed too much with little consistency.

Today because of the strong leadership of the men and women behind me and this Endowment Act, we now have some sustainable dollars flowing to enable us to address the important needs I mention and to expand upon the already existing good work that our Child Advocacy Centers and Victim Service Agencies are already doing.

Pennsylvania has always been looked upon as a leader in the area of victim's services and today, I feel incredibly proud to say we have upped our game once more.

If it weren't for the brave men who stood up against Sandusky and broke their painful and traumatic silence, we would not be standing here today and too many victims would still be suffering in silence. To them I give the final and ultimate Thank you.