



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2017

PA Office of Victim Advocate Commemorates National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 2-8

Harrisburg, PA – Commonwealth Victim Advocate Jennifer R. Storm was joined by several crime survivors, representatives from the District Attorney's Association, and the Crime Victim Alliance of PA who rallied at the state Capitol today to kick off National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), April 2-8, 2017, to show support and to raise awareness about crime victims' issues and rights. Last year, over 5 million individuals were a victim of a crime, and there were nearly 15 million property victimizations, according to the 2015 National Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"It is vital that we acknowledge the strength and resilience of our crime victims and survivors in the Commonwealth and Crime Victims' Rights Week gives us an opportunity to do just that," said Storm. "OVA is proud to partner with our sister agencies across the commonwealth in creating awareness of victims' rights and helping those who seek justice."

This year, the PA Office of Victim Advocate received a \$5,000 grant award to develop videos of crime survivors speaking about the importance of awareness of victims' rights along with other collateral material for use during the campaign.

"These first-person testimonials highlight the participants within our Resilient Voices Project – who are all survivors of crimes and who are brave enough to speak publicly and openly on OVA's behalf," said Storm.

This year's theme — Strength. Resilience. Justice. — emphasizes the importance of multidisciplinary responses and building the capacity of individuals, service providers, and communities to respond to crime and support the ongoing healing of victims and survivors.

Be the difference — Speak up. Listen. Empower. Respond. React. Reach out.

For more information on the Office of Victim Advocate, visit their website at www.ova.pa.gov.

Download the #NCVRW2017 Resource Guide free at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2017 for tips on observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Jennifer Storm, OVA, 717.756.9741
Maria A. Finn, PBPP, 717.231.4411

###