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OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE

Giving Crime Victims a Voice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What about the Victims? Statement on Overturning the Cosby Conviction

Harrisburg, PA – The facts in the Cosby case do not appear to be in dispute. Mr. Cosby spent decades using drugs and alcohol in pursuit of his own sexual gratification resulting in the victimization of numerous young women.

“The Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s decision is not a discussion of the facts, but a review of the apparent questions of law. With all due respect to the Court and my acknowledgment of their expertise and authority to answer these legal questions,” shared Commonwealth Victim Advocate Suzanne V. Estrella, “I am compelled to express my deep disappointment that the 79 page opinion completely fails to address the impact of this decision on Ms. Constand and all the victims who participated in this process, as well as those who will never participate in the legal process because of this result.”

“As an attorney, I understand the validity of these crucial legal principles, and I agree that due process rights should never be ignored. As a community of citizens, we must find a way to equitably balance these rights with the rights of victims of crime. Continuing to describe victim behaviors as atypical and lacking credibility will continue to move us further away from equal justice.”

“As the Commonwealth Victim Advocate, I am so sorry. I know this feels like injustice and that many survivors will bear the weight of this decision in a tangible, hurtful way. I am asking that you don’t bear it alone. Seek out safe community groups to share your thoughts and feelings. Contact our office or [our website for referrals](#). OVA will continue to fight for you. We are committed to creating safer, caring communities where justice thrives.”

This discussion and its scope may deeply impact victims/survivors. There are confidential, free resources available through the [Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape](#) at 888-772-7227.

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