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Prosecutor Walsh Honored with Victims' Rights Champion Award

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, May 07, 2019) – For her passion in helping crime victims, Marsy's Law for Ohio recently honored Summit County Prosecutor Sherrri Bevan Walsh with a Victims' Rights Champion award from Marsy's Law for Ohio.

The award was presented in recognition of Prosecutor Walsh's dedication to fighting for the rights of crime victims. For much of her professional career, Prosecutor Walsh has been a devoted advocate for crime victims.

"I am so proud to receive this award. My main mission as Summit County Prosecutor is to keep our community safe. By holding criminals accountable, we fight for justice and the rights of victims," said Prosecutor Walsh. "With my office's monthly self-defense classes, safety speeches, scam alerts, I strive to make our community a better place to live."

Recently, Prosecutor Walsh launched the Start By Believing campaign in Summit County. Start By Believing enhances what the office already does in encouraging and supporting crime victims, specifically survivors of sexual assault. The awareness campaign included billboards, bus ads, and newspaper and web-based ads. Start By Believing helps build a foundation of belief and support rather than doubt, shame, or blame.

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As Summit County Prosecutor since 2001, Prosecutor Walsh has put in place a number of innovative programs to assist crime victims and help them navigate the criminal justice system. Those include being the first prosecutor's office in Ohio to have a facility dog on site. Avery has been with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office since August of 2013 and has helped over 130 victims of crime, many of whom are children. Also, each September, Prosecutor Walsh declares the month as Senior Safety Awareness month to focus more attention on protecting local seniors. Prosecutor Walsh was also a proponent of Marsy's Law in Ohio. The state-wide initiative passed in 2017 and changed Ohio's constitution to guarantee rights for crime victims.

The Marsy's Law for Ohio Victims' Rights Champion award was presented to 14 instrumental leaders in Ohio, including Ronda Blankenship, who survived a horrible crime. Ms. Blankenship was shot, stabbed, and left to die after three of her family members were killed. Brothers Eric and Michael Hendon were convicted of the crime and are currently serving life sentences.