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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SILENT RALLY TO SUPPORT AREA CRIME VICTIMS**

**Uniontown, PA** – In an effort to end violence, the Crime Victims' Center of Fayette County will sponsor a silent rally 6 p.m. April 25 in the Williams Building Swimmer Hall Auditorium at Penn State Fayette: The Eberly Campus.

The public is invited to stand or sit in silence for 10 minutes to raise awareness for victims of sexual assault, child abuse, school safety issues and violent crimes.

Fayette County Commissioners recently declared April Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Fayette County, in the hopes of raising awareness of the lasting harm caused by sexual assault and sexual harassment - especially against children.

They encouraged residents to promote safety, respect and equality while working toward prevention.

Additionally, Fayette County observed National Crime Victims' Rights Week earlier this month, with commissioners recognizing that justice isn't served until victims and survivors have full access to help, support and life-changing resources.

Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink said we must focus on recognizing warning signs to stop abuse and assault before it happens.

"But when those warning signs are missed, we collectively must do our part to ensure every crime victim has access to services and professional support," Zimmerlink said.

Commissioner Dave Lohr said the lasting effects of violent crimes - especially sexual assault - affect not only victims, but their families, as well.

"No one has the right to take something that is very private and to be shared with a spouse. One of the problems in our society is how the entertainment industry convinces people that it's only sex," Lohr said. "What is rarely shown are the negative ramifications physically and mentally."

Commissioner Vincent Vicites said victims of violence and sexual assault deserve help and support.



“These silent rallies demonstrate the commissioners’ commitment to increasing the awareness of the need to stop these terrible acts in Fayette County,” Vicites said.

The rally will feature guest speakers and victim testimonials. Rally participants are encouraged to design T-shirts or signs for the rally, and use “#FayettehasaVOICE!” and “#SilentNOMORE!” on social media.

For 24-hour access to crime victims’ resources, call the crisis hotline at 724-437-3737.

For more information on the rally, call 724-438-1470 or visit [www.crimevictimscenter.com](http://www.crimevictimscenter.com).

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.info](http://www.fayettecountypa.info).

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