

DEB RYAN



for DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MARSY'S LAW ON THE BALLOT THIS NOVEMBER

Chester County, PA (October 7, 2019) —Marsy's Law, a Crime Victims Rights Amendment, is on Pennsylvania's November 5th ballot this year. This is a proposed amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution to give crime victims necessary protections that include the right to: receive information about their rights and available services, receive notification of court proceedings and major developments in their criminal case, receive timely notification or changes to the offender's custodial status, be present at court proceedings, provide input to the prosecutor before a plea agreement is finalized, be heard at a plea, sentencing or any process that may result in the offender's release and restitution.

Pennsylvania is one of a handful of states that does not currently provide constitutional protections for crime victims. This law would permit victims to have the ability to assert their rights and affords them the opportunity to correct an imbalance in the court system where their voice will be heard. It does not, in any way, diminish the rights of defendants.

Deb Ryan has spent her entire career putting victims first. Ryan stated, "This is a positive law for victims and allows them to have equal rights in the criminal justice system. It provides victims with legal standing to enforce their rights and the ability to be treated with the fairness, compassion, and respect they deserve."

Marsy's Law is named for Marsy Nicholas, a college student at University of California Santa Barbara, who was killed by her ex-boyfriend in 1983. A week after Marsy was murdered, her mother and brother were confronted by the accused murderer in a grocery store. The family was not informed that he had been released on bail. Marsy's brother, Dr. Nicholas, campaigned for Marsy's Law to increase the rights and privileges of victims in state constitutions throughout the country. The law was first passed in California in 2008.

There is overwhelming bipartisan support for Marsy's Law. Hundreds of individuals and groups endorse this amendment, including: Office of the Victim Advocate, PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence, PA Coalition Against Rape, PA District Attorneys Associations, PA State Troopers Associations, Governor Tom Wolf, Attorney General Josh Shapiro, Auditor General Eugene DePasquale, State Senators Andy Dinniman and Katie Muth, among others.

Ryan is a dedicated, veteran prosecutor who has handled thousands of cases, including homicides, sexual assaults, child abuse, domestic violence, robberies, burglaries, high-level drug trafficking and countless others. She served as a prosecutor for 15 years at the Philadelphia and Chester County District Attorneys' Offices. In the Chester County District Attorney's Office, she was promoted to Deputy District Attorney in charge of the Child Abuse Unit and Children's Advocacy Center. She led a team of detectives and prosecutors who worked tirelessly to protect one of our most vulnerable populations.

She received the Prosecutor of the Year Award in 2014 for her hard work and dedication to the victims and survivors who she championed in the courtroom. Currently, she is the County Coordinator in charge of the Safe and Healthy Communities Initiative at the Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc. This is the first comprehensive initiative anywhere in the United States that provides prevention/education programming to children and adults in Chester County to eradicate child sexual abuse. Deb Ryan is truly the Victims First candidate.

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Endorsed by Deb Ryan for DA, Philadelphia Area.