



Department of
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
Testimony Highlighted Improved Safeguards**

January 10, 2014

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

Yesterday Ron Edwards, Superintendent of Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility, and I testified before the U.S. Department of Justice Prison Rape Elimination Act Panel about the many efforts that have been underway to improve safeguards in our juvenile facilities. I explained that as soon as we read the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) June 2013 report *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012*, Governor John R. Kasich called for an interagency task force to look at all aspects of our operations to make sure that we have the strongest possible safeguards in place in our juvenile facilities.

Thanks to all of your hard work, I was able to testify about the development and implementation of our strategic approach to address the issues reflected in the BJS report. I highlighted the strategies and practices being used to protect against sexual misconduct while providing a safe and secure environment for both youth and staff. This could not have been possible without the sense of responsibility and cooperation from all staff as well as the support from the task force. If you would like to read more, the full testimony is available at the following link to our website: <http://www.dys.ohio.gov/DNN/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=uWCt%2bAVPeCk%3d&tabid=36&mid=392>.

I know that you will help sustain our efforts and promote safe facilities for both youth and staff. Again, many thanks for your commitment to this important topic.



Above: Director Reed and Superintendent Edwards testifying
Below: Panel Members included Ms. Anne Seymour, Dr. Reginald Wilkinson,
and Dr. Gary Christensen

