



February 15, 2013

The Honorable Attorney General Mike DeWine
30 E. Broad Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

With over 16,816 members in Ohio, Concerned Women for America will continue to stand as a defender of justice and a supporter of people like you. You, Mr. DeWine, have an opportunity in the Steubenville High School student rape case to set a precedent for the next generation.

I trust you've watched the video reportedly filmed on the night of the rape. Eighteen-year-old Ohio resident, Michael Nodianos, jokes for 12 minutes about a girl allegedly being raped. Rape is a felony under Ohio Law, Revised Code §2907.02. <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2907.02>

Mr. Nodianos and all with knowledge of the alleged rape occurring should be fully investigated and, if sufficient evidence is found, held accountable for failure to report a crime. Under Ohio Law, revised code §2921.22 (A) (1):

"No person, knowing that a felony has been or is being committed, shall knowingly fail to report such information to law enforcement authorities. Whoever violates division (A) or (B) of this section is guilty of failure to report a crime." <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2921.22>

The outcry for justice in the Steubenville rape case has been resounding. Reports that the town is divided on this issue leaves us heartbroken for our society in general. There is hardly any need to take the boys' past or future into consideration when dealing with the present situation at hand. A serious crime was committed and all involved failed to help and report it. That young girl could have been any one of our daughters, sisters, nieces, or friends.

Mr. Attorney General, we ask that you use the same technology used against this victim to help her. Not only the 12-minute video, but also full documentation of online conversations via Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram reveal those who were present, knowledgeable, and/or were potentially involved in detailing this crime as it was committed.

Those who provided the alcohol to this group of minors are also partially responsible for the horrific abuse that this girl and her family have been forced to endure. Under Ohio Law, a social host is barred from providing alcohol to people under the age of 21. They should be held accountable, as Ohio Law states:

The Ohio Revised Code § 4301.69(A) and (B) provide the following:

(A) [N]o person shall sell beer or intoxicating liquor to an underage person, shall buy beer or intoxicating liquor for an underage person, or shall furnish it to an underage person, unless given by a physician in the regular line of the physician's practice or given for established religious purposes or unless the underage person is supervised by a parent, spouse who is not an underage person, or legal guardian . . .

(B) No person who is the owner or occupant of any public or private place shall knowingly allow any underage person to remain in or on the place while possessing or consuming beer or

Concerned Women for America

1015 Fifteenth Street, N.W. ♦ Suite 1100 ♦ Washington, D.C. 20005 ♦ (202) 488-7000 ♦ concernedwomen.cwfa.org

intoxicating liquor, unless the intoxicating liquor or beer is given to the person possessing or consuming it by that person's parent, spouse who is not an underage person, or legal guardian and the parent, spouse who is not an underage person, or legal guardian is present at the time of the person's possession or consumption of the beer or intoxicating liquor.

Under Ohio law, a person who knowingly allows a person under the age of 21 to drink alcohol on their premises is guilty of a first degree misdemeanor. A first degree misdemeanor in Ohio is punishable by a \$1,000 fine and/or up to six months in jail. We ask that any adults involved in this case face appropriate penalties for catalyzing teenage crime.

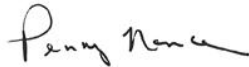
Ignorance of the law is not an excuse. When was the last time an unconscious woman had the ability to stop someone from having sex with her? And how many women do you know who would want to have sex while unconscious? Even if this young girl consented at first, she could not have possibly given her consent while she was unconscious.

As you know, rape is a very serious crime and one that is rarely reported and difficult to prosecute because of the victim's reluctance to come forward and further subject herself to public humiliation and the prospect of a trial where it will be claimed that the sexual act was consensual or never occurred. Accordingly, it is important that in this specific case, we seriously enforce the rule of law and hold those who break the law accountable.

On behalf of our organization, Ohioans, and men and women nationwide, we dutifully implore you to demonstrate that the Ohio Attorney General's office takes this matter seriously by conducting a thorough investigation, and, should sufficient evidence be found, charge the persons responsible for these crimes and those with knowledge of the crime, to the fullest extent of the law. Only by doing so will we be able to send a clear message to the community and society at large that those who rape a woman, aid and abet the crime, and fail to report it will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Concerned Women for America will be watching this case closely. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Penny Young Nance
CEO and President
Concerned Women for America



Bobbi Radeck
CWA Ohio State Director

cc: John Kasich, Governor of Ohio

Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization with 500,000 participating members across the country, over 450 Prayer/Action Chapters and Home Teams 600 trained leaders and over 30 years of service to our nation.

Concerned Women for America