



**April 1, 2019**

**Statement by Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence Regarding Lucy Flores’s  
Recent Claim About Joe Biden**

As with any instance of sexual violence, we’ve seen responses to Lucy Flores’s story that span varying opinions—from defense of Joe Biden to condemnation of his actions. We would like to say – we believe her.

At the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, we know that even those who claim to be champions for anti-sexual violence work and that might care deeply about the cause are not immune to misunderstandings of consent and appropriate touching as well as the impact those misunderstandings can have on someone else—regardless of the intent behind the actions.

Unfortunately, sexual harassment and other forms of non-consensual touching happen everywhere—including on both sides of the aisle. Gender-based violence is a bi-partisan issue that does not discriminate by party lines.

OAESV denounces behaviors that perpetuate a culture that allows sexual harassment to fester and would like to take this time to remind everyone about the importance of obtaining clear, enthusiastic consent for all forms of touching and/or being in someone’s personal space.

The theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month this year is “#IAsk”. We must ask others how they would like to interact with us. We cannot just make assumptions based on our own internal intentions.

We would like to see Biden take responsibility for the impact he had on this woman and to learn proper consent practices. For more information regarding consent, please visit our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) as well as ICanBetheOne.com.

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About Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence:

As Ohio’s statewide coalition, OAESV advocates for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and empowers communities to prevent sexual violence.

For further comment, please contact:

Taylr Ucker-Lauderman

Director of Communications

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

[Tucker-lauderman@oesv.org](mailto:Tucker-lauderman@oesv.org)

(216) 317-2339