

Hi everyone,

My name is Lauren Wisenbarger. I am from Southeastern Ohio but have called Columbus home for the last five years. Since moving to Columbus, I have worked with some of the city's most vulnerable populations including individuals and families with chronic housing and food instability. Columbus is a resourceful city that does its best to help community members in need but still falls short of providing stabilizing services for its most vulnerable. I currently work at a food pantry and am part of the ACLU of Ohio's Policy and Advocacy Team.

As a recent master's in social work graduate from OSU, I am committed to the Columbus Safety Collective Campaign's (CSCC) mission to stand up a non-police emergency crisis response team to support our community members experiencing mental health or substance misuse crises. Cities across the country are implementing alternative crisis response teams that are successful. We even have two programs already established here in Ohio, in Dayton and Cincinnati. The CSCC has been advocating for Columbus to reimagine public safety since 2020. Now is the time to take matters into our own hands and push for this policy change, but we need your support to ensure we collect enough signatures to get on the ballot.

Join me at ComFest this Friday from 1pm to 3pm to collect signatures! You can sign up for Comfest shifts HERE.

If you cannot make it to ComFest, make sure to hit up hotspot locations including Columbus Metropolitan library branches, markets, parks, and grocery stores or check out upcoming signature collection events through mobilize, HERE.

The caller team also needs your help contacting our network of circulators. This group meets weekly to check in with our volunteers and answer any questions they may have. If you are interested, you can join the Caller Team group through Mobilize.

I shared why I am passionate about public safety, and now I would love to hear from you. You can reach me at lwisenbarger@acluohio.org to schedule a 1:1 to chat about the CSCC or ways you can support this work. I look forward to connecting with you!

Thank you,
Lauren Wisenbarger