



**For Immediate Release**

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## **ICYMI: Man Accused of Multiple Rapes Offered Deal by Ohio Attorney General Yost**

**Port Clinton, OH** – [As recently reported by the Sandusky Register](#), Joseph Bergman, a man who had previously pleaded guilty to at least one count of gross sexual imposition and is accused of two counts of rape and a second count of gross sexual imposition, has been offered a plea deal by Attorney General Dave Yost. As a result, Bergman may end up on probation when he is sentenced Wednesday, despite the original charges potentially having resulted in a significant prison term.

Despite Bergman’s history of troubling behavior, AG Yost refused to say *why* he offered Bergman a plea deal, why he will not oppose giving Bergman probation instead of prison, or *address any other concerns* about how he handled this case and other sex crime cases, according to the Sandusky Register. State Representative **Jeff Crossman** (D-Parma), the Democratic nominee for Ohio Attorney General, issued the following statement in response to the report:

“This decision by Dave Yost to give a deal to an accused rapist makes our communities more dangerous; coming from this administration, it is unfortunately not surprising. **Yost has consistently failed to protect women and has failed to stand up for women alleging sexual assault or rape. This is a pattern under the current administration.**”

The AG’s record speaks for itself and is documented at length in the Register’s report. Earlier this year, [Yost accused and attempted to convict a young police officer of allegedly falsifying a rape claim](#) - a charge the trial court later dismissed. AG Yost also recently rushed to court to impose an abortion ban on Ohio immediately after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, [resulting in a 10-year-old rape victim being forced to drive to Indiana to receive proper care](#).

According to Rep. Crossman, “Ohio needs an Attorney General that will stand with victims of crime to support and advocate for them rather than giving deals like this. **If he is not willing to stand up and defend Ohioans, he doesn’t deserve to be in office.**”