

RAINN

Speakers Bureau Newsletter

By Sara Snyder, Speakers Bureau Manager • Nov 30, 2023

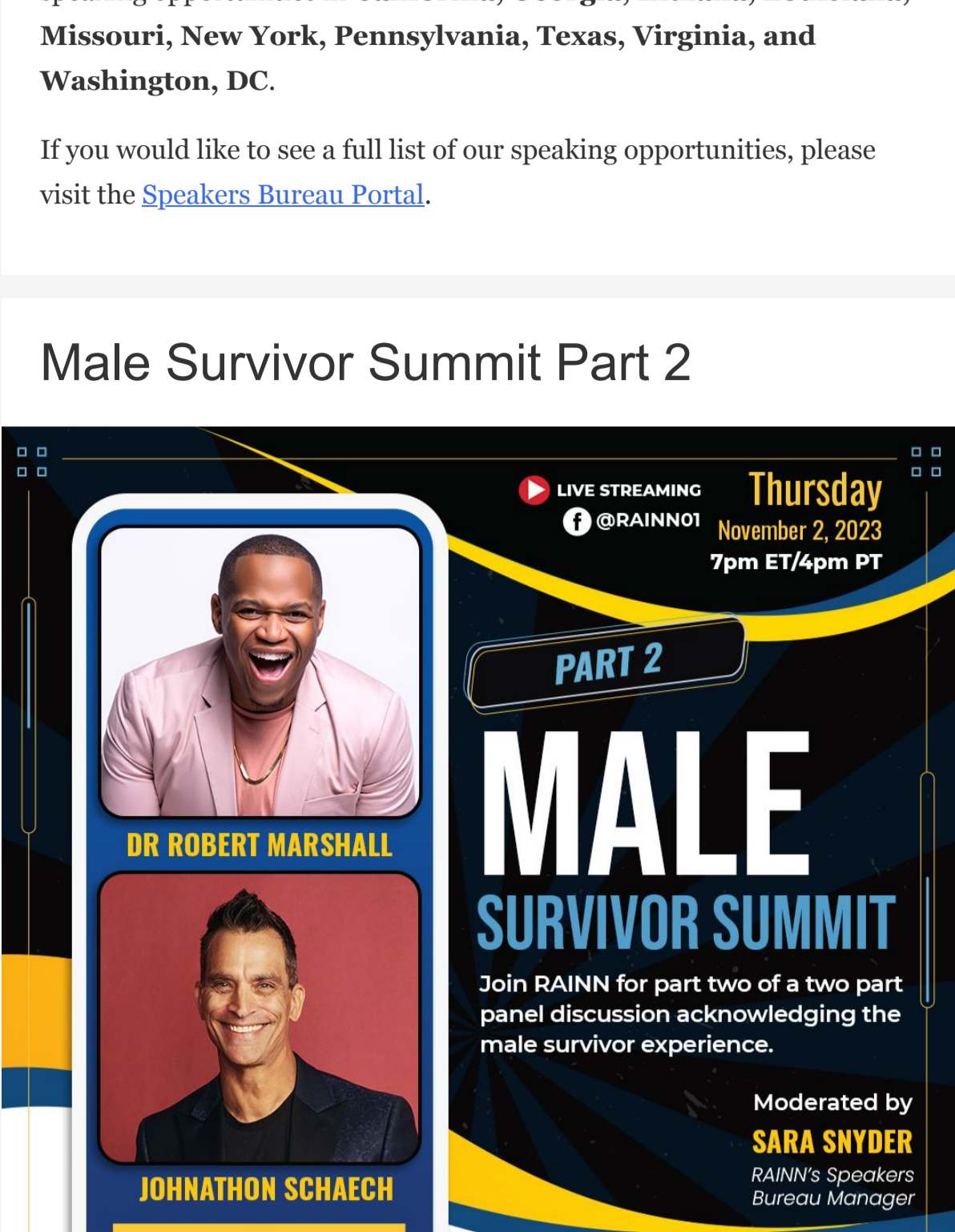
Smart Brevity® count: 6.5 mins...1730 words

Speakers Bureau Highlights

Thank You, October Speakers!

RAINN Speakers Bureau Speaking Opportunities

A number in each state representing how many opportunities we have had in that state.



For the month of October, there were a total of six opportunities. We had speaking opportunities in **California, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, DC.**

If you would like to see a full list of our speaking opportunities, please visit the [Speakers Bureau Portal](#).

Male Survivor Summit Part 2

Part two of our RAINN Male Survivor Summit featured two remarkable panelists, Dr. Robert Marshall and Johnathon Schaech, who shared their inspiring stories on disclosure as male survivors, information about accessibility to resources as a male survivor, the healing process from a male perspective, and their experience as a male-identifying survivor.

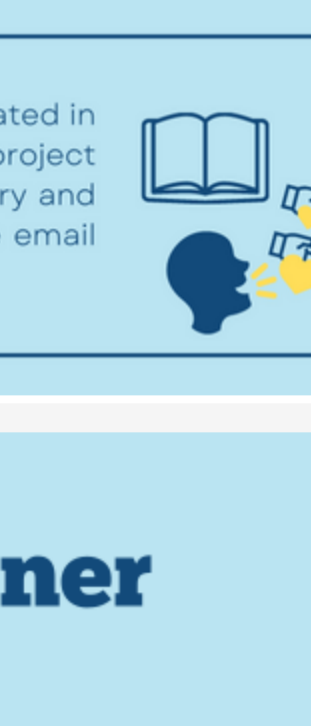
You can find a recording available on our [YouTube channel](#).

Survivor Highlights

Each month, we aim to highlight members from the RAINN Speakers Bureau throughout the country. Would you like your story highlighted?

[Fill out this form!](#)

Sara's Corner



Sara Snyder manages the RAINN Speakers Bureau and cultivates this community.

Hello Winter! I am excited about the coming months for the Speakers Bureau. We have some exciting changes ahead of us for improvement, and I will share them as they come. During this time, we will continue to send out speaking opportunities, our Speakers Bureau Facebook group will remain active, and we will continue to hold workshops and trainings.

I am excited about what's to come next for the Speakers Bureau and to share it all with you.

As the holidays are approaching it's important to remember that these can be challenging times for everyone. If you need additional support during this time, please don't hesitate to reach out to our National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1.800.656.HOPE (4573) or online.rainn.org for support in English and Spanish 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

If you are planning to travel for the holidays, we encourage you to check out [Survivor-Centered Travel Tips for TSA Screenings](#)

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback. You can email at speakersbureau@rainn.org

Have you recently published a book, participated in a fundraiser, or completed some other project having to do with RAINN or your survivor story and would like to share it with members? Please email speakersbureau@rainn.org

Policy Corner

In November, RAINN's public policy team advanced [13 anti-sexual violence bills](#) in 14 days.

Federal Bills

PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD ACT

On October 24, 2023, the [Project Safe Childhood Act](#) passed the U.S. Senate. The Project Safe Childhood Act will require the U.S. Attorney General to develop and disseminate best practices for the prioritization of cases involving online child sexual exploitation. The bill will also fund an additional 20 federal prosecutors at the U.S. Department of Justice dedicated to these cases. In addition to RAINN's work heralding this bill through Congress, we welcomed its Senate passage with a [press release](#).

DEBBIE SMITH ACT

On November 2, 2023, The U.S. Senate voted to renew the [Debbie Smith Act](#), a law that, to date, is responsible for aiding hundreds of thousands of investigations in America. The bill provides critical funding to public crime laboratories to efficiently and swiftly test DNA evidence, including rape kits.

The reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act of 2023 ([S.499](#)) will provide grants to state and local public crime laboratories to build capacity to analyze DNA samples in evidence kits. The Debbie Smith Act was last reauthorized in 2019 and expires this fiscal year.

END Child Exploitation Act

On November 3, 2023, a bipartisan group of Congressional members introduced the [END Child Exploitation Act](#). This bill would require internet service providers (ISPs) to retain metadata on those who proliferate child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) for a full year. Under current law, they are free to delete this information after 90 days, which hampers law enforcement's ability to prosecute these crimes.

RAINN has been advocating for the extension of the data retention requirement and has garnered support from members of Congress.

State Bills

In California:

On October 17, 2023, California Governor Gavin Newsome signed [AB 933](#) into state law. AB 933 protects survivors from defamation action and ensures financial security in the event the defamation claim is a retaliatory action from the abuser. RAINN also advocated for this bill on social media, with RAINN's Instagram post being included in [Forbes coverage](#) of the Bill passing.

In New York:

On October 26, 2023, RAINN's Stefan Turkheimer, [Miss New York USA](#) Rachelle Di Stasio, Senator Fernandez, Assemblyman Dinowitz, Assemblyman Hevesi, Former U.S. Congressional Maloney, and a coalition of other New York-based anti-sexual violence organizations [called on New York lawmakers to close the state's Voluntary Incapacitation Loophole](#).

Unfortunately, the New York statute requires that mental incapacitation results from a person being under the influence without their agreement. This creates what is today called the Voluntary Intoxication Loophole (i.e., if the victim has themselves voluntarily become intoxicated, the rape statute does not apply.) This prevents many victims from having their cases tried, thereby achieving some semblance of justice.

In New York, there are two bills to close this loophole, one in the State Assembly and one in the State Senate. To pass, these bills must be voted on at the committee level in both the Assembly and Senate and then moved to the floor of both chambers for a full vote. Once ratified, it will be submitted to Governor Hochul to be signed into law.

In Pennsylvania:

[H.B. 507](#) passed unanimously out of the Pennsylvania Senate Health and Human Services Committee. RAINN's policy team advocates against medical students performing pelvic exams on individuals who are under anesthesia and did not provide their prior consent. H.B. 507 requires a patient's informed consent before conducting pelvic, rectal, and prostate examinations. The bill is set to reach the Senate floor next week.

In Michigan:

RAINN helped advance six bills surrounding the statute of limitations.

[H.B. 4482](#) extends the statute of limitations for civil action. It would eliminate the statute of limitations for civil action to recover damages if there is a criminal conviction related to criminal sexual conduct (CSC).

[H.B. 4483](#) would delete the ten-year statute of limitations for civil action for adult victims.

[H.B. 4484](#) would exempt a claim for compensation for criminal sexual conduct from statutes of limitations that pertain to filing a claim against the state.

[H.B. 4485](#) eliminates the statute of limitations for criminal indictments. Under the bill, an indictment for criminal sexual conduct in the second or third degree could be found and filed at any time, regardless of the age of the alleged victim at the time of the offense.

[H.B. 4486](#) adds a new section to 1964 PA 170 that states that governmental agencies and employees do not have immunity in relation to liability for negligence. This applies if an employee or agency knew or should have known that a perpetrator of criminal sexual conduct (CSC) has committed a prior act and failed to act or intervene in a way that would prevent the act of CSC.

[H.B. 4487](#) allows claims that fall under H.B. 4482 to file claims against the state without a statute of limitations.

Updates & Reminders

Speakers Bureau Workshops

We are planning more training sessions for Speakers Bureau members. If you are interested in leading a workshop or have an idea for a future workshop, please contact us at speakersbureau@rainn.org

Speakers Bureau Applications are Closed

As of October 1, 2023, we have closed applications for new Speakers Bureau members. Applications will re-open in the Spring of 2024.

Portal Tech Issues

If you are experiencing technical problems with our new Speakers Bureau Portal, please send an email to speakersbureau@rainn.org. We are aware of an issue wherein members are not able to edit their profile information. We are working with our IT Team to fix this issue.

RAINN News Newsletter

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Nurturing Boundaries During the Holiday Season

Self-Care

As we step into the holiday season, November brings with it a sense of warmth, togetherness, and anticipation. This month, we want to explore the importance of setting boundaries, not only for ourselves but also for our children during holiday celebrations. It's a time of joy, but it's crucial to remember that maintaining healthy boundaries can lead to a more harmonious and enjoyable holiday experience.

During the holiday season, our homes often become bustling hubs of activity. Friends and family gather to celebrate, share meals, and exchange gifts. While this time can be filled with love and laughter, it can also be overwhelming, and at times, boundaries may be unintentionally crossed.

Here are some valuable insights to help you navigate and nurture boundaries during this holiday season:

Prioritize self-care. Set aside time for relaxation, mindfulness, or activities that rejuvenate your spirit. Communicate with your loved ones about the importance of self-care and encourage them to do the same.

Establish personal boundaries. Communicate your needs and limits clearly but compassionately. For example, let your guests know if you need downtime or quiet moments to recharge, and don't feel obligated to accept every invitation or task.

Teach your children and loved ones about boundaries. Discuss with them the concept of personal space and [consent](#), ensuring they understand the importance of respecting others' boundaries. Encourage open communication and empower them to express their comfort in social situations.

Provide alternatives. Many families have cherished holiday traditions. While these traditions can be delightful, they may also trigger anxiety or discomfort in some loved ones. Always respect their feelings and boundaries. If they are hesitant about participating in particular traditions, engage in a supportive conversation that honors their feelings.

Communicate your expectations with guests. Tell them about any house rules or specific boundaries you've set to ensure a harmonious gathering. Emphasize the importance of mutual respect and understanding among all attendees.

Practice bystander intervention. Step in to address issues when necessary, ensuring everyone feels safe and respected. [Here are some tips to look out for as a bystander.](#)

Seek professional support. Remember that you can also reach out to our [National Sexual Assault Hotline](#) at 1-800-656-4673 or chat with us through our website at <https://hotline.rainn.org> for assistance in both English and Spanish, 24/7/365.

Remember that setting boundaries is an act of self-care and a demonstration of respect for oneself and others. By nurturing healthy boundaries during the holiday season, we can create an atmosphere of understanding, kindness, and joy for everyone involved.

RAINN Job Openings

[Director of State Legislative Affairs](#)

[Software Development Lead/Architect](#)

[Safe Helpline Staffer \(Friday-Tuesday - 3 p.m.-11 p.m. EST\)](#)

[Department of Defense Safe Helpline Program Coordinator](#)

[Department of Defense Safe Helpline Program Manager](#)

[Bilingual \(Spanish\) Senior Consultant](#)

[DOD Safe Helpline Shift Manager \(3p.m. to 11p.m. Tuesday through Saturday\)](#)

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