

# OHIO PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

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John E. Murphy  
*Executive Director*

Memo To: House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

From: John Murphy

Date: December 1, 2015

Re: HB-359; Address confidentiality

The Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association supports HB-359 to establish an address confidentiality program through the office of the Secretary of State.

Many victims of domestic violence, stalking, and other crimes live in fear of their former partners, spouses, or others who have threatened or assaulted them in the past. Knowing that their attackers know where they live or work is certainly one of the more obvious drivers of these fears. It would go a long way toward alleviating some of these fears if these victims could have a means of shielding their home and work addresses. HB-359 provides such a mechanism, to be administered by the Secretary of State's office, which we believe will be of substantial benefit to persons who find themselves in this unfortunate situation.

Our main concern about the bill as introduced concerned the ability of law enforcement and prosecutors to be able to contact the victim directly if need be. That issue has been addressed to provide access through the law enforcement gateway, with appropriate protections.

We believe the bill will help protect the safety and privacy of victims of crime, and we support its enactment.

cc: Rep. Mike Duffey

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