




Memphis Area
WOMEN'S COUNCIL

2574 SAM COOPER BLVD | MEMPHIS, TN | 38112

Dec. 4, 2018

To: Members
Ohio House of Representatives Civil Justice Committee

From: Deborah M. Clubb 
Memphis Area Women's Council

Re: HB 724

I write today in support of House Bill 724 which State Rep. Dorothy Pelanda has sponsored and which she modeled after Tennessee HB 1793.

On behalf of all domestic violence survivors who endure years of costly harassment through frivolous lawsuits by their abusers – I thank you for your consideration of this bill. And I urge you to vote FOR this bill and to support its enactment.

In my experience as a community advocate, I have heard outrageous accounts of years of court appearances and legal costs for survivors, caused solely by vindictive batterers. I have known women who moved out of state to escape intimate partner violence only to be forced to travel back again and again to deal with court matters unrelated directly to their abusers' criminal behavior but arising from lawsuits brought against her.

I have known women who end up sleeping on a friend's sofa or even in their vehicles because repeated court appearances not only depleted their finances but caused them to lose their businesses or jobs. Those circumstances then can be used against them as their abusers continue to harass them with court actions related to child custody – so some women lose custody of their children due to the impact of frivolous lawsuits.

This law to protect domestic violence victims/survivors from frivolous lawsuits is desperately needed. We have accomplished that in Tennessee. I urge you to do the same for the citizens of Ohio.

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