



Ohio General Assembly
House of Representatives
Columbus

Sponsor Testimony of Representatives Jonathan Dever and Theresa Gavarone
Regarding House Bill 56
Before the House Criminal Justice Committee
Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on behalf of House Bill 56, which will help survivors of human trafficking. This legislation mirrors HB 268 from the 131st General Assembly, which unanimously passed out of the House Judiciary Committee last December.

Current law allows trafficking-related convictions to be expunged from a person's record if they were committed while he or she was being trafficked. The law is being interpreted in a way that only allows very specific crimes to be expunged. In reality, there are other crimes, such as theft and drug offenses that a victim of human trafficking is forced to commit during the course of being trafficked. Under this legislation, these additional offenses are able to expunged, so long as the record is able to be sealed under current law.

House Bill 56 also enacts a process by which survivors of human trafficking are able to request expungement from findings of no guilt or dismissed charges.

Finally, the bill also allows intervention in lieu of conviction for a person who was charged with prostitution or other associated crimes while being compelled into prostitution. Current law allows people who are convicted of prostitution while being trafficked to choose an intervention program instead of a conviction. HB 56 seeks to make the law more uniform by also allowing people who are compelled into prostitution to choose the same option.

Thank you, again, for allowing us the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 56. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.