



**State Representative Bill Patmon**  
**Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Bill 109**  
**March 21, 2017**

Good afternoon Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson and fellow members of the House Criminal Justice Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 109, a bill that will bring enhanced penalties for crimes the currently do not delineate an enhanced penalty when committed against the elderly and those with a disability.

Currently, eleven criminal offenses enhance the penalty for a violation of the offense when the victim of the offense has a disability or is elderly. The offenses are theft; unauthorized use of a vehicle; unauthorized use of property; unauthorized use of computer, cable, or telecommunications property; misuse of credit cards; forgery; secured writings by deception; identity fraud; solicitation fraud; assault; and soliciting. This legislation will fill in the gaps to ensure that committing one of the remaining felony offenses against a disabled or elderly person imposes an additional mandatory prison term.

House Bill 109 will loop in such felonies as telephone solicitation fraud, predatory lending, vandalism, ethnic intimidation, patient abuse, kidnapping, rape, abduction, murder and aggravated robbery just to name a few. Many of my constituents worry about going about their everyday lives for fear of what others may do to them.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the 2012 rate of violent victimization for persons with disabilities (60 per 1,000) was nearly three times the rate among persons without disabilities (22 per 1,000). The BJS also found that when victimized, persons age 65 or older were more likely to offer no resistance than younger people who were victimized. Offenders often see persons with a disability and the elderly as easy targets. We need to let offenders know that their egregious choices will come with serious consequences.

Again, Chairman Manning and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, I thank you for your time and am more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this legislation.