



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

Nancy Neylon, Executive Director

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Testimony on SB 316

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee. I am writing in support of House Bill 96. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) is Ohio's statewide domestic violence coalition. We provide training and technical assistance on evidence based best practice to Ohio's local domestic violence agencies and allied professionals. ODVN works closely with the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Assault on many initiatives including campus safety, prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault and positive policy initiatives.

House Bill 96 will ensure that offenders who repeatedly grope, or engage in unwanted and unprovoked touching of others will receive longer prison sentences. The connection between repeated unwanted groping of others and domestic violence and sexual assault is not farfetched. Rather, domestic violence is not an isolated act but rather a pattern of coercive control used to achieve and maintain control over an intimate partner. Such repeated acts of groping behavior or unwanted and unprovoked touching represents a clear pattern of abusive behavior.

Clearly addressing disregard for human safety had been established in the field of domestic violence and sexual assault, and such human safety is being violated by the individuals this bill seeks to address.

I respectfully request your support of this legislation as we strive to keep repeat offenders off of the streets, and our communities safer.