



**Written testimony submitted to the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee  
House Bill 96, March 28, 2017**

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Chair Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson and members of the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 96. As Ohio's statewide coalition, the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) advocates for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and empowers communities to prevent sexual violence.

OAESV views House Bill 96 as a balanced measure that approaches repeat sex offenses with an appropriate degree of increasing severity. OAESV supports House Bill 96's tiered system, which allows for a heavier penalty for § 2907.06 Sexual imposition if the offender has previously plead guilty to or been convicted of three or more violations of § 2907.02 Rape, § 2907.03 Sexual battery, § 2907.04 Unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, § 2907.05 Gross sexual imposition, or § 2907.06 Sexual imposition. As this committee is aware, current violations of § 2907.06 after one of the above listed offenses are classified as first degree misdemeanors, no matter how many times the offender has violated a qualifying statute. OAESV favors the shift proposed by House Bill 96, which elevates a violation to an unclassified misdemeanor once an offender has three or more prior violations of these qualifying sex crimes, which permits a sentencing judge the discretion to impose a jail term of up to one year. Our agency feels that this increase reflects survivor feedback concerning the need for a concrete recognition of and increased penalty for repeat offenses.

Most importantly, OAESV supports House Bill 96's's proposed use of consecutive jail terms for violations of § 2907.06 after three or more qualifying offenses. Our agency feels that mandating that repeat offenders of these specific sex crimes serve their jail term separate and apart from penalties for other crimes is a critical means for both acknowledging and addressing the harm created by repeat sex offenses. Survivors of sexual assault often feel alienated or that the crime they have suffered has been dismissed when offenders are not sentenced separately and fully for that crime, particular when those offenders have repeatedly demonstrated a callous disregard for the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 96. I am available for any questions from committee members via email or phone at [bperkins@oaesv.org](mailto:bperkins@oaesv.org) or 216-658-1381.