

November 26, 2018

Opponent Testimony Senate Bill 231

To: Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Celebrezze, and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee

From: The Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions

I am the president of the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions (OALRC). The mission of the OALRC is to promote the creation, advancement and communication of ex-offender reentry coalitions around the State of Ohio through comprehensive and cost-effective solutions to reduce recidivism and increase public safety.

All of us working in reentry want safe communities to live in and we were all shocked and appalled by the brutal and senseless murder of Sierah Joughin in Fulton County. The goal of reentry is to make our communities as safe as possible. We also believe in the rule of law and that the criminal justice system is equipped to fully administer justice and to properly punish the individual who committed this horrible act.

Research and data tell us that public registries (and private ones) do not prevent crime. More often than not they create huge barriers for those returning to society after serving their time for the crimes they committed. Not to mention, the registries are usually the responsibility of local Sheriff Departments to oversee, with no additional funding for staff time to do so. In fact, just last year our local (Lucas County) Sheriff had to cut his budget by 20% due to continued loss of funding from the State of Ohio.

I, on behalf of OALRC, I had discussions with Senator Randy Gardner on the Violent Offender Registry, first with changes made with Substitute Senate Bill 67 and then with the new bill introduced, Senate Bill 231. Senator Gardner has taken a large amount of his time to hear and consider our (reentry) thoughts and concerns on the proposed legislation. He has incorporated many of these thoughts and concerns into the bill to date. I appreciate his hard work on this and the fact that he kept us in the loop with every change made.

However, I represent reentry coalitions from around the State of Ohio, many if not all are opposed to a violent offender database, especially with the current version of SB 231 allowing access to all records maintained at the local Sheriff's Office as public records for anyone that is required to register in that County. We find this portion of the bill very troublesome and ask you to vote this bill down.

Respectfully,

/s/Thomas E. Luettker

Thomas E. Luettker, President
Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions.