

CAPITOL OFFICE:

77 South High Street
12th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
Phone: (614) 644-5076
Rep55@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov



Nathan H. Manning
State Representative

COMMITTEES:

Chair – Criminal Justice
Civil Justice
Education
Transportation and Public Safety
Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review
Criminal Justice Recodification

Chair Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 1. I also would like to thank former Representative Kuhns and my joint sponsor, Representative Sykes, for their hard work previously on this bill.

Current law allows for civil protection orders in domestic violence situations, but does not include individuals who are dating but are not members of the same household. The US Department of Justice defines dating violence as “violence and abuse committed by a person to exert power and control over a current or former dating partner, and this often involves a pattern of escalating violence and abuse over a period of time.” Due to the risk of ongoing violence in these situations, it is important that all victims of abuse have resources to protect themselves. Many people argue that a piece of paper is not going to protect someone from harm, but research has shown that violence stops completely or is significantly reduced when a protection order is in place. In a study from the American Journal of Preventive Medicine involving 2,691 women who reported an incident of intimate partner violence to police, the study found that having a permanent protection order in effect was associated with an 80 percent reduction in police-reported physical violence within the next year.

The intent of HB 1 is to allow victims of violence within a dating relationship to petition the court for a civil protection order. By passing this legislation, Ohio would become the 49th state to update their protection order statutes to include relationships where dating partners don’t reside in the same home or have a child in common but are part of a committed dating relationship. It’s important to note that HB 1 does not create a new classification of restraining order, but rather allows dating partners to file for an order similar to the victims of domestic violence. Thank you Chair and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony, and I will be happy to answer any questions.