

Stephen A. Huffman

80th District

Health Committee
Chair

Joint Medicaid Oversight
Committee
Chair

Education Committee

Insurance Committee



Ohio General Assembly
House of Representatives
Columbus

Vern Riffe Center
77 South High Street
12TH Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

T: (614) 466-8114

F: (614) 719-3979

Rep80@ohiohouse.gov

House Bill 341 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Judiciary Committee
Tuesday, March 20 2018

Chairman Bacon, Vice-Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Thank you for allowing Representative Cera and I to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 341.

This legislation will add judges and magistrates to the list of individuals whose personal information is exempt from public records requests. It would also permit judges and magistrates to request that a public office redact their addresses from internet records and replace their full names with initials. These common-sense alterations are intended to provide further protection and privacy for our judges and their families.

In current code, there is an extensive list of public service workers whose personal information is not subject to disclosure under the public records law. This list includes parole officers, prosecuting attorneys, correctional employees, federal law-enforcement officers and others. It is certainly understandable why the law protects these public servants' personal and residential information due to the dangerous nature of their duties. It is only fitting that judges and magistrates be afforded the same protection, especially in light of the events that occurred in Representative Cera's district several months ago.

Judges across Ohio are required to make difficult decisions every day in the pursuit of upholding justice and peace in our communities. Fulfilling their duties can potentially put them in dangerous and at times life-threatening situations. House Bill 341 will hopefully provide peace of mind for these honorable public servants and their families.

It is important to note that House Bill 341 does not create new exceptions for judges and magistrates but rather places them under the same protections as other public service workers. House bill 341 has the full support of the Ohio Judicial Conference and was unanimously reported out of the House Government Accountability and Oversight committee.

Chairman Bacon and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 341. I will now turn it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Cera for further remarks.