

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 2/10/2020

Name: SUE FAYARD

Are you representing: Yourself YES Organization _____

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 1822 MYERSVILLE RD

City: AKRON State: OH Zip: 44312

Best Contact Telephone: 330-699-6118 Email: _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes _____

No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 397

Specific Issue: RIGHT OF DISPOSITION

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Y Opponent _____ Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes
No _____

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 2

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I support A CHANGE IN THE LAW.

Chairman Hambley

Vice Chair TomPatton

Ranking Member Brown

Members of the Civil Justice Committee

Hello, my name is Sue Favaro and I live in Akron. I am a recent retiree of Lockheed Martin, having worked there thirty nine years. I am a widow and a mother of a twenty two year old son. I am writing this letter to show my support of House Bill 397. I am best friends with Cathy Morrison, the driving force behind this bill. This is an old, outdated law that needs to be changed.

Here is my story. I received a call from Cathy on Thanksgiving morning 2016, with the news of her daughter, Candices', passing. Image losing a child on Thanksgiving day. Later that day she asked if I would accompany her to the funeral home the next day to help her with the arrangements. Friday morning we headed to the funeral home. You cannot image how devastating an ordeal it is to make arrangements for a child. Cathy did as well as could be expected until she stated she wanted to cremate Candice. That is when we were informed of this Ohio law. We had never heard of this. In the event of the death of a child, both parents must agree to the cremation, even though the child was thirty years old. Cathy was devastated, to say the least. She totally fell apart. Her exhusband, Candices' father, had not been in her life for at least ten years, by his own choosing. Cathy had no information on him what so ever, no address, not even a phone number. His own family did not know where he lived or how to contact him either.

We were told, nothing could be done until he was contacted and approved of her plans.

Image being a single parent and suffering the loss of a child and being told that the absent parent must release the body before you can do anything to put her in her final resting place. This must be changed.

This man chose to not be a part of his childrens' lives when they divorced. Cathy tried to encourage a relationship, to no avail. Also Candice was thirty years old and had always lived with her Mother and sister. She had not even spoken to him for over ten years.

I encourage you to support this bill so that no other single parent has to go through what I witnessed my friend go through. The whole experience was truly devastating.

Cathy started this campaign in 2017 and it has been a very long journey. This law needs changed now.

I ask for your support to correct this outdated law as soon as possible. Please support House Bill 397.

Sincerely,

