



Representative Glenn Holmes
63rd House District

House Bill 37 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and esteemed members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, I'd like to thank you for granting me the opportunity to speak in support of HB 37. While you've already heard my joint-sponsor, Rep. Antani, speak about the substance of the bill, I'd like to talk about how this bill would affect Ohioans.

As they currently stand, the penalties for being an irresponsible pet owner are far too lenient. Pet owners are afforded multiple chances for their pet to attack another animal or human being, before any action is taken against them. Then, once a consequence is delivered, it is one that does not encourage these owners to be more responsible of their pets. When one dog in my district attacked a constituent of mine, Samantha Phillips, the owner only received a \$150 fine. A few months later, the dog mauled another constituent sending her to the hospital. One constituent of mine, Shawna Achten, was afraid to leave her home because the dog that attacked her and her mother in their yard, lived next door.

I want to stress that these attacks alter lives. This has become a matter of public safety in my district, and I'm sure I'm not the only one. More than 14,000 serious dog bites were reported in 2017, and over 20 people have died from dog attacks since 2010. HB 37 stresses responsible pet ownership by increasing the punishment for those who are not paying proper attention to their dogs by increasing punishments for owners with multiple offenses. I appreciate you affording me the opportunity to speak in support of HB 37 and I welcome any questions you may have.