

Witness for Proponent Testimony  
-HB 3 Aisha's Law

I am writing this testimony to express the importance of –HB 3 Aisha's Law. Please give great consideration to change this bill into a state law. Throughout the state of Ohio many women live in fear of their intimate partners, and are victims of domestic violence. These victims lack the support to eliminate the escalation, and often repeated episodes of abuse.

Aisha Mason Fraser, my beloved colleague was brutally stabbed to death by her ex-husband November 17, 2018. She was a mother of two young children, an elementary school teacher, and a daughter to a loving mother and father. Aisha death was a high profile case, because she was well loved by everyone who had an opportunity to meet such a wonderful person. However, for every high profile case, there are hundreds of cases that we may not ever hear about. Women are dying by the hands of their intimate partners. –HB 3 Aisha's Law is designed for greater protection to victims of intimate partner abuse. In my opinion, if Aisha's Law had been passed sooner, many lives may have already been saved.

-HB 3 Aisha's Law will unite law enforcement, courts, and communities to create a continuum of protection for victims of domestic violence. This partnership will create safer communities across the state, and help protect our law enforcement who often too are victims to most of these lethal calls. Aisha's Law will require our local partner to establish a domestic violence High Risk Team, which will consist of at least two persons; law enforcement or the courts, to help keep the victim safe. A screening tool is used to investigate, assess and determine lethality of the situation for referral to the High Risk Team. However, if a victim has been choked by a perpetrator, the situation is predetermined lethal. This law will allow 24/7 access to get protection order signed. If children are present during the domestic violence, it will guarantee Child Endangerment charges. If this law is passed it will create safer communities, and ultimately save lives. Please give consideration to –HB 3 Aisha's Law.

Vanessa Terry Nichols