

Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson Jr., and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 321 (Erin's Law).

I am writing today to support the passing of Erin's Law in our great state of Ohio. I am the grandmother of a first grade 6 year old little girl. She heartbreakingly was a victim of a child predator. He was her gym teacher at Clearcreek Elementary School in Springboro Ohio. He was taking advantage of his authority over these young girls. John Hopkins was indicted on 34 counts of gross sexual imposition. This went on for several months undetected. Teaching our young children how to communicate any touching or abuse they are experiencing is absolutely a necessity. This is critical to identify issues in our school systems or at home. This was happening within the school with no oversight of a brand new teacher in the Springboro School system . This is just unacceptable. I truly believe the educational goals of Erin's Law could help our young, vulnerable children understand and recognize when they are being taking advantage of by a trusted adult. Whether at school, home or anywhere. It is our responsibility to protect our children. I believe this program could help save lives by preventing or limiting the length of any kind of sexual abuse. It is vital for early detection and reporting. I am certain that with Erin's Law in place in Ohio that children will be more educated to tell someone much sooner. Hopefully minimizing the time abusers have to inflict physical and emotional harm. Many more than 34 little girls have been forever been changed due to this sexual predator. Erin's Law will give students, teachers and parents with the information and tools necessary to help stop this from happening in the future. I appreciate and support our leadership in Ohio. I am now asking for your support to keep our children safe!

Once again, thank you, Chairman Jones and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, for your time and your consideration on this matter, I appreciate your service to Ohio and all that you do to keep our families safe!