

Chair Grendell, Chair Galonski, and members of the Criminal Justice Subcommittee on Criminal Sentencing, thank you for the opportunity for allowing me to testify in favor of House Bill 37.

Hello, my name is Tierney Dumont. I am the mother of Savannah Coleman. On July 28th 2018 our world was turned upside down. It was a normal summer evening when Savannah asked to go a few houses down to play as she had done so many times before. 30 minutes later we heard screams. Being a summer day with lots of kids out we didn't think much of it. Unfortunately those screams were the screams of our sweet Savannah being viciously attacked by a pit bull. Once getting to her I knew it was bad. My sweet girl who used to be tan from the summer sun was completely pale, her shirt that was once white was now red and soaked in blood, I remember watching the blood drip down her legs splattering on to her new Adidas. Within minutes we were rushed into an ambulance and taken to Dayton children's south, once we had arrived there they knew she would have to be sent down to the main campus as her injuries were to severe. We were rushed into another ambulance and sent to the main campus of Dayton children's hospital. Where Savannah spent more than 4 hours in surgery. Savannah had 9 lacerations to her head, her ear was cut in 3 places and her right hand had 2 lacerations and a puncture wound. She had a skull fracture, had to have a blood transfusion, all the nerves in her head were severed and she spent 5 days in the hospital. Savannah has gone through the worst days of her life because of this at the small age of 8. Savannah still has pain in her head every day and suffers from extreme headaches daily due to the trauma she went through. Not to mention all the psychological damage it has done to her. Savannah is still seeking physical and mental treatment due to this attack. This is something that very well could have killed Savannah, luckily a good Samaritan was there. He had to physically choke the dog and remove the dog from Savannah's head and saved her from being mauled even more or worse. The 60 pound pit bull was brought out side on leash by a 9 year old child at the request of her mother, in an unfenced yard. Which should have never happened as she was to young and not strong enough to handle the dog. The dog immediately over powered the child and ran to Savannah attacking her from behind, latching onto her head. Yet the dog owner only received a minor misdemeanor and only had to pay a \$120 dollar ticket. We are asking that you listen to our pleas for harsher punishments for dog owners when their dogs attack. So that just maybe another child will not have to go through what Savannah has gone through.

I would be happy to take any questions, thank you