



**Relationship
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Chairman Bacon, Vice-Chairman Dolan, Ranking member Thomas and fellow members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Lisa Carroll and I have been a registered nurse for 36 years. For the past 20 years, my focus has been in the area of family violence prevention.

The initiatives that I have been involved in include implementing the Shaken Baby prevention program in our state and passing Claire's Law with Congressman Steve Stivers. This piece of legislation has reduced Shaken Baby Syndrome by requiring all moms in Ohio to receive education in a variety of ways, prior to discharge from the hospital.

For eight years, I was the prevention specialist for Domestic Violence at Jewish Family Services. During that time, I assisted ten women in leaving their abuser and in the rebuilding of their lives. One in five women in their lifetime will experience Domestic Violence and every 15 seconds a woman is murdered by their abuser in our country.

With the collaboration of many organizations, women were supported with housing, case management, legal assistance and financial resources. A minimum of \$10-20,000 per client was necessary for them to be able to move forward. Jewish Family Services was fortunate to have a donor to aid these women, but most do not have access to even one of these resources.

While working at JFS, I spearheaded my second community awareness initiative called the "Purple Night Lights - Shine a Light, Save a Life" campaign. This was initiated by Victoria Tron, a survivor of Domestic Violence in Covington, Washington. Throughout Ohio, homes, buildings and bridges were lit up in purple. A tool kit was created, with the help of the Attorney General, to assist all 88 counties in implementing this campaign. It was during this initiative, the epidemic of Teen Dating Violence came to my attention. One in three girls and one in five boys will experience dating abuse in their teenage years. Educating our youth to recognize what healthy relationships look like and the red flags of abuse is critical to help reduce Domestic Violence.

An event called, the "Purple Teen Party" was created with the purpose of providing information about Teen Dating Violence. Over a five-year period,

10,000 teens, moms and mentors attended workshops, heard stories of survivors of dating violence, received important resources and became advocates and leaders to help their peers.

Continuing with a passion to reduce dating violence, four colleagues and I started a non-profit called, *Love Without Hurt*. We wanted to support House Bill 19, Tina's Law, which requires teen dating violence education, grades 7-12th, and teacher training. Sadly, we found that this unfunded mandate is not enforced in most schools. Our organization provides program options to support Tina's Law and sponsors a new community awareness event known as I MATTER. In addition, a teen advisory board has been created to encourage leadership, advocacy and to disseminate dating violence education to their peers.

Supporting House Bill 94 and designating February as *Teen Dating Violence Month* are two ways to highlight the need for education on this important topic. This will help *shine the same light* on Teen Dating Violence, mobilize our state to take action, reinforce Tina's Law, and help break the cycle. Your endorsement of this legislation is also honoring and recognizing those teens that have touched my life by sharing their personal stories, validating the importance of this education, not only for themselves, but their moms as well.

So, please, help us "Shine a Light, Save a Life" by declaring February *Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month*.

Thank you for hearing my testimony,

Lisa Carroll, RN, BSN
Love Without Hurt