

**Heather Randolph
Proponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Bill 207
November 28, 2017**

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 207.

My name is Heather Randolph and my little sister, Monica, died November 9, 2014. She was murdered by her husband, Andre... she was the mother of four boys and one girl. I am now raising her only daughter, Olivia. The three years since her attack have been a nightmare—I am still trying to wake up. I have been stressed, anxious and at times depressed. My life now revolves around trying to spread awareness about domestic violence, the dangers of non-fatal strangulation and what that means for domestic violence victims in their future. It also revolves around raising my niece and my children, who have suffered from PTSD following this horrific event. Although we do try to find some enjoyment in life after Monica's death, I now spend most of my days trying to comfort and console these heartbroken children.... I now know that non-fatal strangulation is a huge indicator of the future for most domestic violence victims....death.

I really want this law that makes non-fatal strangulation a felony to be passed because it could save so many lives. There are now five children with no mother or father to raise them. That could have been prevented if Andre would have been convicted of a felony in January of 2014. Instead, he was convicted of a misdemeanor and served 11 days in jail. That gave my sister no time to get strong or to find a way to leave her abusive marriage. How can you attempt to strangle someone, an act that can cause death, and not be convicted of attempted murder or some kind of felony? This makes no sense to me. I miss my sister! I want to talk to her, I want to spend holidays with her and call her whenever I want like I used to... Something has to change! And the time is now! Please make non-fatal strangulation a felony.

Thank you.