

Monica Weber Jeter's Family – Rick Weber
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 our family the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 207. Strangulation and homicide victim Monica Weber-Jeter's father, Rick Weber, passed away in June of 2016. He was devastated by her death and outraged that the law did not protect Monica. Prior to his death, Rick wrote a statement in support of felony strangulation legislation – Monica's Law. Our family would like for his written statement to be included with proponent testimony for Senate Bill 207.

I wanted to share the pain and suffering I have been going through since the phone call I received from my daughter Heather letting me know that Monica had been stabbed by her husband Andre. If the strangulation law would have been in place this probably would have not happened to Monica. Monica was strangled by Andre a year before the stabbing and was given 11 days in jail and only charged with a misdemeanor. After what they called rehabilitation for him, he continued to harass and threaten her and her fears were so bad she couldn't tell anyone in the family what was actually going on. The only thing she could tell me is that she felt safe when she came to Wisconsin to visit. At the time I wasn't sure what she was trying to tell me because of her being in so much fear about telling anyone in the family what was really going on at home.

From my understanding, the police were called numerous times after he got out of jail and nothing was ever really done to keep him away. The law actually allowed him to move back in after all that he had done to her. No one understands until it happens to them how devastating it is when you know you will never talk or see your daughter again only to know that this whole incident could have been avoided if Ohio would have had better laws in place. Whoever in the State of Ohio doesn't think that strangulation should not be a felony, please understand that this could happen to your family as well. I am pleading that the State of Ohio like many other states make strangulation a felony and support MONICA'S LAW.

~ Rick Weber, Mukwonago, Wisconsin