

Ohio House Civil Justice Committee  
Wednesday, February 22, 2017  
Proponent Testimony  
House Bill 1

My name is Phyllis Carlson-Riehm and I represent ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women, a statewide domestic violence coalition. Thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony in support of House Bill 1, introduced by Representatives Emilia Sykes and Nathan Manning. This bill will update Ohio's laws and address the need for protection orders for victims of dating violence.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, relationship violence is most apt to occur to victims between ages 18 to 24. Research indicates that the average age for marriage has increased. Young adults often delay marriage while completing their education or job training and seeking to become financially independent. This trend can lead to longer as well as multiple dating relationships prior to marriage.

Aside from young adults delaying marriage, our society also has a high rate of divorce, leading to later-in-life dating relationships prior to a second or third marriage. In all cases, unmarried dating couples of different ages can experience multiple forms of violence, if one partner exhibits power and control in the relationship. For this reason, the enactment of House Bill 1 is reasonable and necessary.

**It's significant to note that 48.6% of women killed by intimate partners were killed by dating partners.** Women in the U.S. are 11 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than in other high-income nations. (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.)

When Classie Mixon moved from Upstate New York to Ohio and took a job at the Franklin Medical Center (a medical treatment prison on Harmon Ave.), she was seeking to improve her career in the criminal justice system and build a brighter future. But on February 10, police were called to her home on Silver Oak Drive in Columbus in response to a call about a domestic dispute. After officers were convinced that Classie and her boyfriend Keith Marshall were going to resolve their differences, they left the scene. Officers probably were not aware that Marshall had a gun. About an hour after the police departed, Marshall shot his 32-year old girlfriend multiple times, killing her in her home.

Soon after Marshall fled the scene in his pickup truck, the police were in pursuit. When Marshall stopped on Lowridge Drive and got out of his truck, police fired shots at him but missed. (Marshall may have been playing "suicide by cop.") Then Marshall shot himself. He was taken to Grant Medical Center in critical condition and later died from his wounds.

**House Bill 1 will authorize the court to issue a civil dating violence protection order for a victim experiencing relationship violence when Ohio's current legal provisions defining a DV relationship do not apply. House Bill 1 will require law enforcement**

**agencies to maintain an index of dating violence protection orders and consent agreements and charge violations when they occur. House Bill 1 will also pave the way for dating violence victims to have the option of seeking and obtaining safety at one of Ohio's domestic violence shelters.**

**Maybe if House Bill 1 had been enacted into Ohio law prior to February 10, Classicie Mixon and Keith Marshall would both be alive today.**

**Please support passage of House Bill 1. Thanks for your consideration.**

Phyllis L Carlson-Riehm, Executive Director  
ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women  
PO Box 423, Worthington OH 43085-0423  
614 825-0551 / Toll Free 888 622-9315  
[actionohio@wowway.biz](mailto:actionohio@wowway.biz)