

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson, and members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give testimony in favor of House Bill 38. HB 38 will amend sections 2903.01, 2903.11 and 2929.14 of the Revised Code to provide that purposely causing the death of first responder or military member is aggravated murder and to require an offender to serve the prison term imposed for felonious assault on a peace officer, investigator, first responder, or military member consecutively to the prison term imposed for any related offense.

Already this year we have had 23 Officers killed in the line of duty in the United States...its only March 7th. Last year at this time we had 17 Officers killed, thats a 35% increase from last year. A total of 143 Police Officers were killed in 2016. 63 of those brave men and woman were killed by gunfire.

On July 13, 2008 my husband K9 Officer Josh Miktarian was working for the City of Twinsburg. My husband performed a traffic stop that would be his last. Ashford Thompson and his girlfriend were driving a vehicle with loud music at 2:00 am in a residential neighborhood. Ashford Thompson shot and killed my husband, 4 shots to the head 3 shots with the muzzle of the gun resting on my husbands head while he pulled the trigger. Later Ashford Thompson told Detectives "the Officer embarrassed me in front of my girlfriend".

Ashford Thompson sits on death row after killing my husband who was serving his community as a Police Officer. It took 2 long years in and out of court hearings for this monster to be given the death penalty and now almost 9 years later Ashford Thompson is still appealing his sentence.

HB 38 will ensure that a person who "purposely" kills a first responder will be given the death penalty. Police Officers, Fireman, military members and federal agents all serve and protect us and its time we protect them. Maybe, just maybe, if people in our society know that the death penalty is the only option given if they are found to have "purposely" killed a first responder then perhaps those numbers I spoke of in the beginning will be significantly lower.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to offer testimony for House Bill 38. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.