



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

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Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Testimony on SB 4

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek and Ranking Member Celebrezze and members of the Criminal Justice Committee. I am writing in support of Substitute Senate Bill 4. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) is Ohio's statewide domestic violence coalition. We provide training and technical assistance on evidence based best practice to Ohio's local domestic violence agencies and allied professionals. ODVN works closely with the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Assault on many initiatives including campus safety, prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault and positive policy initiatives.

Substitute Senate Bill 4 would permit the court to expunge the record of a list of specified crimes if the charge was the result of the person having been a victim of human trafficking. Additionally, Substitute Senate Bill 4 would allow intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while they are a victim of compelling prostitution.

Victims of human trafficking and forced prostitution are usually forced to engage in a life of crime, abuse, force, and duress. Passage of Substitute Senate Bill 4 would allow victims of compelled prostitution and human trafficking the opportunity to start their lives over with a clean slate. Allowing expungement of charges which have been proven to be due to human trafficking or forced prostitution will allow the victims to apply for jobs and housing without these crimes disqualifying them from consideration.

ODVN respectfully requests the House Criminal Justice Committee to support passage of Substitute Senate Bill 4. Victims deserve the opportunity to break the cycle of abuse, and Substitute Senate Bill 4 will assist victims in their journey to rebuild their lives. Thank you for your consideration.