

## 35th House District

Summit County

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## Committees

Civil Justice  
Criminal Justice  
Education and Career Readiness

## Tavia Galonski State Representative

Chairman Manning, Vice Chairwomen Lanese, Ranking Member Celebrezze, and my colleagues on the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for allowing me to give sponsor testimony for House Bill 627 today.

Too often victims of rape do not speak up about their assault for years. Their reasons can range from trauma to battling legal hurdles to the cost and delay of testing rape kits. Across the nation thousands of women are standing together and coming forward about rape crimes experienced years before. This is not a new topic, new cases are announced every day. Anyone can turn on the television and hear that another woman has come forward about sexual assault or rape.

However, in Ohio, individuals who come forward about rape cases which occurred over 25 years ago are unable to be heard. Justice should not expire, especially in an age when DNA testing and technology have made advances which can detect evidence from decades ago. Every individual which has been affected by rape, despite the amount of time gone by, deserves to be heard. It already takes an enormous amount of bravery to speak up and it may take years for someone to be able to come forward. Therefore, victims of rape should not be deterred by time and Ohio should not have a statute of limitations on cases of rape.

Currently, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming have eliminated the statute of limitations for all felony sex crimes. It is time for Ohio to follow suite. Chairman Manning, Vice Chairwomen Lanese, Ranking Member Celebrezze, and my colleagues on the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for allowing me to give sponsor testimony. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.