

Good afternoon Chairman Brenner, Vice Chairwoman Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the House Education and Career Readiness Committee.

It's been almost two years since Alianna was brutally taken away from us.

The Pain, the emptiness, and the void in my life remains the same.

On January 26, 2017 at 5:30 in the evening that's the day I almost stopped breathing.

To know your child left for school at 6 o'clock in the morning, and you weren't notified until almost 12 hours later, is absolutely unacceptable.

Had Senate Bill 82 already been in place, Alianna along with countless other murdered and missing children would be here today.

In the hours that had elapsed, since Alianna left for school, she could have been driven from Cleveland to Atlanta. Think about that.

Time is of the essence, when a child or anyone is abducted.

There are many school districts in the suburbs of Cleveland that currently have systems in place where parents are notified if their child doesn't arrive at school.

Cleveland Hts, Shaker Hts, Mayfield Hts, and the other school districts who've done what they can to monitor our children, I thank you.

I can't fathom, for the life of me, why this Bill is being heard, near the expiration date of when it was first introduced into the Senate.

This Bill shouldn't have been put on the back burner.

Our children are important to us, like the opioid epidemic, and the building of a wall are to others.

Our children need protection. From Senate Bill 82, to more police presence, during school traveling hours, to if you see something, say something.

Our children are being stalked like prey 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

No amount of snow could have kept me from these hearings today.

I dedicate my life for the safety, education, and cultivation of all children.

This is why my wife and I created the Alianna DeFreeze Let's Make a Change Foundation.

We will be providing transportation to children who are walking, or ride the RTA.

We are a non-profit 501c3 foundation that was created from a tragedy that we hope someday will save lives.

The first step towards accomplishing our goals is to not consider myself a victim, but victorious in our movement towards protecting our children, and making change.

I would like to thank Senator Sandra Williams and her staff along with Ms. Keisha Taylor who chose to get involved by creating this Bill instead of standing on the sidelines.

So, I stand here before you all to ask that you please, please vote Senate Bill 82 into law.

The lives of many children are at stake. I ask that you do your part to protect them.

Thank you,

Damon DeFreeze