



Bob Hackett

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Senate Bill 20
Senate Judiciary Committee
Chairman Bacon
Sponsor Testimony – Senator Bob Hackett
February 8, 2017

Thank you Chairman Bacon, Vice Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to bring before you Senate Bill 20 – Destiny’s Law – which is named in honor of Destiny Shepherd, who was just a year old when she received permanent brain injuries as a result of being violently shaken and thrown against a wall.

S.B. 20 was introduced at the request of Clark County Prosecutor, Andy Wilson. Randi Shepherd, Destiny’s mother, had gone to a local store to get milk for her daughter, and when she returned home, her home was surrounded by police and emergency vehicles. Destiny was taken to Dayton Children’s Medical Center where Randi learned that her daughter had suffered skull fractures and serious brain injuries caused by a boyfriend violently shaking the child and throwing her against a wall. The child who once loved to run and play now struggles daily with permanent disabling brain injuries.

Under current law, Destiny’s assailant could only be sentenced for up to eight years for felonious assault. S.B. 20 will require the court to impose an additional mandatory prison term of 3 to 8 years if an individual is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony offense of violence and also to a specification that the victim suffered permanent disabling harm. S.B. 20 defines permanent disabling harm as serious physical harm that results in permanent injury to the intellectual, physical or sensory functions and that permanently and substantially impairs a person’s ability to meet the ordinary demands of life.

Destiny’s assailant has since been released from prison while Destiny continues to serve a life sentence due to her permanent brain injuries. These crimes often involve very young and vulnerable victims who are unable to protect themselves and it is my hope that with this increased penalty that we can prevent and help deter another tragic case like Destiny’s. Once again, Chairman Bacon, Vice Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the

Senate Judiciary Committee thank you for the opportunity to bring S.B. 20 before you. I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.