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**House Bill 341 – Sponsor Testimony**

**State Rep. Jack Cera**

**Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2018 – North Hearing Rm**

Thank you Chairman Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, and Ranking Member Thomas for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 341.

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, Judge Joseph J. Bruzzese, Jr. and a probation officer made their way to the Jefferson County Court House to begin their work day. As they approached the courthouse where the Judge has served on the Jefferson County Court of Common Pleas for 20 years, shots rang out. Both the probation officer and Judge drew guns and fired back at the shooter.

In the matter of just a few moments.....a well-liked Judge in my district was wounded and the person shooting at the Judge was dead. Local authorities considered this an ambush and attempted murder on the Judge.

HB 341 is a necessary safety measure, a protection for our judges. While it may not have helped in this particular case, the incident shows the need to look at ways to protect our judges further.

Thank you again, for allowing us to speak before the Senate Judiciary Committee on H.B. 341. We ask for your favorable consideration and I will be happy to address any questions or concerns from the committee.