

Proponent Testimony

HB 321

House Health Committee

October 15, 2019

Pam Prisbylla

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 321.

My name is Pam Prisbylla, and I am a member of the Survivor Advisory Council for the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. I am an advocate against all sexual violence. Today, I am here as an advocate for Erin's Law, which will teach sexual abuse and prevention in schools. I feel very passionate about this bill because of my own experiences.

In 1959, as a small child at the tender age of seven, I was drugged taken to the basement of my school, and was sexually, physically, mentally, and emotionally abused. For survival, I disassociated from this event and did not recall it for many years.

I understand the confusion that comes to a small child, when adults who should be helping you, instead harm you. I blamed myself, I felt responsible, and I thought I was a bad person. Erin's law will teach children safe touch and unsafe touch. It will teach them ownership of their bodies. It will teach them to say no and to tell a trusted adult. And in my case, it will teach survivors that if something has happened, it is not the survivor's fault.

It is my deepest prayer that this bill is passed and the great state of Ohio will establish a "0" tolerance policy for all sexual violence.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story. I will answer any questions you may have.