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Sponsor Testimony: Senate Bill (SB) 133
Senate Judiciary Committee
May 15th, 2019

Chairman Eklund, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on SB 133. Also known as the Reagan Tokes Act, this legislation would improve the rehabilitation of criminal offenders through the reform of current global positioning system (GPS) monitoring procedures, parole officer caseloads, and reentry programs for recently released offenders.

This bill was introduced in the last General Assembly (SB 202 – Bacon/O'Brien) as a companion to SB 201 - which was ultimately passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor John Kasich – after Reagan Tokes, a student at The Ohio State University, was kidnapped, raped, and killed on February 8, 2017 in Columbus' Short North neighborhood.

The man charged with her death had been released from prison just three months prior to her murder, was on parole, and was being monitored by a GPS tracker. Evidence from his GPS tracker links him to six additional armed robberies that took place over several weeks, and less than a mile away from where Reagan was abducted. His connection to Reagan's murder was not realized as a result of his GPS tracker, but rather through DNA left on a cigarette in her car.

While there were many breakdowns in Ohio's justice system that led to the murder of Reagan Tokes, the issue addressed by SB 133 is the failure of Ohio's system of post-release monitoring protocols to prevent her violent abduction and murder. In an effort to reform this system, SB 133 provides the following:

1. Requires the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) to create a reentry program for violent and dangerous felons being released from ODRC that are rejected from private reentry programs such as Alvis House or Oriana House. This will prevent violent offenders such as the man convicted of murdering Reagan Tokes from being let out of prison and onto the streets essentially homeless.

2. Requires the Adult Parole Authority to establish guidelines providing a maximum workload for parole officer cases that includes establishing a minimum number of hours a parole officer should dedicate to a parolee based on the parolee's risk classification, thereby reducing the strain on Ohio's already overburdened parole officers and allowing them to spend more time with each offender.

3. Sets forth policy to regulate GPS monitoring by:
   a. Requiring every GPS monitor assigned to an offender released from prison to have inclusionary and exclusionary restrictions (respectively, locations where the offender *must be* and *may not be* during certain hours of the day).
   b. Requires that specified information about such offenders be entered into the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) for easy access by law enforcement personnel.
   c. Requires all third party vendors that provide GPS monitoring to utilize some form of crime scene correlation software that is capable of interfacing with the statewide database.
   d. Provides that law enforcement will have 24/7, real-time access to this information without having to request a subpoena to obtain the necessary information to investigate criminal activity.

Chairman Eklund, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee, the murder of Reagan Tokes is a tragedy could have been prevented, had we had the proper post-release control procedures in place prior to her attacker's release from prison. This bill is just one small step toward ensuring those procedures are in place and that what happened to Reagan never happens to any Ohioan ever again, and we urge your favorable consideration of it.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on SB 133 today. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.