

Witness Testimony-HB 488 Civil Justice Committee
March 29,2022
Opponent testimony

To Representative Hillyer, Representative Galonski, Representative Grendell and all members of the Civil Justice Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

This testimony is being written without benefit of knowing of possible amendments or substitutions to HB 488. The bill is about guardianship. Clarifying guardianship is a worthy goal. But language has been inserted that will damage the bill's credibility. If passed as proposed, any Ohio judge will be able to bring litigation against anyone for any reason and then demand that that county's commissioners pay for that litigation. This language could weaponize the bill. While you may not have a litigious judge in your district who will misuse this portion of the bill it is just a matter of time till you do. The temptation is just too great. When it happens ***even you as a legislator could find yourself the subject of a frivolous lawsuit*** which would be paid for by your constituents.

There is currently an existing process that works well to provide outside counsel for judges who need it in special and rare circumstances.

Clarifying and updating **guardianship is very important.**

Giving judges carte blanche to sue anyone for any reason then have the taxpayers pay is wrong. It is illegal services for judges" all right now let's make the not "separation of powers". It is a license to separate the taxpayers from their money.

Ohio citizens need a clean guardianship bill. I urge you to strip out all language regarding "legal services for judges."

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