



Representative Gail Pavliga
Ohio's 75th House District

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chairwoman Grendell, and Ranking Member Galonski. Thank you the opportunity to speak on House Bill 648. This bill will expand the Portage County Domestic Relations Court jurisdiction.

This bill would transfer paternity, custody, and child support of never married individuals from the Juvenile Court, to the Domestic Relations Court. The genesis of this transfer of cases is to ensure the uniformity of treatment for these types of cases. The court procedures will be more consistent within one jurisdiction.

In short, this bill is an effort to benefit all the citizens of Portage County and have all family matters litigated in one court.

This bill has the support of the Ohio Supreme court and has been thoroughly vetted by the Ohio Judicial Conference.

The current jurisdiction and process in place in Portage County does not properly serve the local community.

It is my hope that his bill will properly place cases within the appropriate courts and provide our local judges with the tools they need to best serve our community.

Considering the unique nature of this bill I have asked Portage County Domestic Relations Judge Paula Giulitto to provide proponent testimony with us today. If you have any specific questions concerning caseload or case details she would be happy to provide any clarifying answers.

If you have any other questions for me at this time I'd be happy to answer those for you now.