

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for Senate Bill 126.

My name is Wade McKenzie and I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 126. On Thursday, March 4th I came home at approximately 10:30pm to find my best friend laying on the couch. This friend was Stone Foltz. Upon calling friends to come over and keep me company as I watched over him for the night, I made the decision that 911 should be called. After hearing dispatch and friends speaking of CPR I immediately recognized the situation that was put into my hands. As I immediately started CPR in attempt to save my friends life. I had to proceed to do CPR as well as keep everyone calm until the first responders arrived in attempt to save my friends life over an event he was forced to do that he had not wanted to do.

Minor crimes are often broken without care due to absence of strict consequences. Very few minor crimes have the ability to take a life. I have firsthand witnessed hazing take a life. Hazing is being treated as a minor crime but can lead to death. Therefore it should not be treated as a minor crime. When physical abuse or forced consumption of substances is involved we must have stricter consequences in order to stray people away from making the decision to haze. I'd be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.