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**Marilyn John**  
State Representative

Chairman LaRe, Vice-Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 390. This bill will provide the Attorney General's Office with another tool in combating human trafficking in our state.

Currently, Sexual Assault Examination kits (SAE kits), also known as rape kits, are required by law to be tested for the following crimes: murder, voluntary or involuntary manslaughter, rape (completed or attempted), vehicular homicide or manslaughter, sexual battery, and gross sexual imposition. However, current law does not require sexual assault examination kits to be tested in an investigation where there is evidence that human trafficking has occurred.

HB 390 is needed for several reasons. First, Trafficking in Persons is the only high-level sex offense that does not currently require law enforcement to submit rape kits for testing. To compare: Rape is a felony of the first degree and carries 3-11 years in prison. Trafficking in Persons is a felony of the first degree, but carries a sentence between 10-15 years. Both are classified as sexually oriented offenses, yet only one requires law enforcement to submit kits for testing once they obtain custody of them. This loophole has the potential to allow assailants to go unidentified and victims to never see justice.

Second, the impact of this bill cannot be understated. Human trafficking is happening all throughout Ohio, each and every day. This will reinforce the message to our law enforcement partners and our communities that Ohio is dedicated to fighting this crime. It can be an educational tool that highlights what trafficking really looks like. It also allows our law enforcement partners to have another piece of solid evidence to use against traffickers, potentially leading to more prosecutions of those who are committing unspeakable harms against victims each and every day.

Finally, this bill does not change the rape kit collection process. A rape kit exam will continue to be voluntary, and a suspected victim will still be able to stop the rape kit collection process at any time.

Chairman LaRe and members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for your time and consideration of this bill, and I will have my joint sponsor, Representative Lanese, explain some more of the details.