



Proponent Testimony
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Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony on HB 390. This is a common-sense bill that will help ensure equal justice for victims of human trafficking.

Sexual assault exam kits are administered to any assault victim who seeks medical attention and authorizes the administration of the kit. These kits are then given to law enforcement, to be submitted for DNA testing as part of the criminal case. ORC 2933.82 requires law enforcement to submit a collected kit to a lab in cases such as certain homicide offenses, rape, sexual battery and gross sexual imposition.

However, there is currently no requirement to test a collected kit if it is attached to a possible human trafficking case. Trafficking in Persons is the only high-level sex offense where ORC 2933.82 does not specifically require a collected kit to be submitted. Trafficking in Persons is a high-level sex offense, but is not treated as such in the current iteration of ORC 2933.82. HB 390 closes a loophole to justice and in doing so brings much needed parity for the victims of human trafficking.

This bill does not change the process of sexual assault exam kits or require anyone to be examined against their will. It ensures that human trafficking cases are treated the same across the state, and that victims are treated the same as others who have been assaulted. It also provides the opportunity to develop additional evidence against traffickers and demonstrate Ohio's commitment to eradicating human trafficking.

I'd like to thank Representatives John and Lanese for partnering with our office on this important piece of legislation. I would be happy to take your questions at this time.