



State Representative Tom Young
42 Ohio House District

Chair LaRe, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 640.

With this legislation we are seeking to provide some sort of restitution for the family of victims of drunk driving, should that victim be a parent. Far too often we remember the victims of drunk driving for only a short period of time while their families bear the burden of such a travesty for a lifetime. While this legislation does not bring back the lost parent, it will require those guilty of driving under the influence who are convicted of either vehicular homicide or aggravated vehicular homicide due to intoxication to pay child support if a parent killed in a crash has any minor children. This support will continue until each child reaches 18 years of age. These payments attempt to provide financial support to the victims' family in addition to holding the drunk driver responsible.

In order to determine the amount of child care the court must take into account:

- The financial needs and resources of the child;
- The financial resources and needs of the surviving parent, legal custodian, or guardian;
- The standard of living that the child is accustomed to;
- The physical and emotional condition of the child and the child's educational needs;
- The child's physical and legal custody arrangements';
- The reasonable work-related child care expenses of the surviving parent, legal custodian, or guardian

Should the offender be incarcerated and unable to pay they must enter a payment plan with the court and begin payments no more than one year after their release. The offender must continue payments until the entirety of the amount owed is paid even if the payments are set to terminate.

Ultimately, our legislation tries to aide in a tragic circumstance. While no amount of money can relieve the grief from a child losing their parent at a young age or bring that parent back, we hope that this financial assistance eases the burden placed upon the victim's children and family.