

TESTIMONY OF BARBARA WARD, ADVOCACY MANAGER OF YWCA DAYTON  
IN SUPPORT OF AM.SUB.S.B.288  
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
REPRESENTATIVE JEFF LaRe, CHAIRMAN  
DECEMBER 8, 2022

Chairman LaRe, Vice Chairwoman White, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee. I am Barbara Ward, Advocacy Manager of the YWCA of Dayton and, on behalf of the Ohio Council of YWCAs, we support passage of Amended Substitute Senate Bill 288.

Among other things, Am.Sub.S.B. 288 makes strangulation a felony, something that we, as anti-domestic violence advocates, have pushed for over the course of several years, and prohibits sealing of conviction for a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to the state offense of domestic violence.

The YWCA is the oldest and largest multicultural women's organization worldwide, and is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, freedom, justice, and dignity for all. The Council, also a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, is comprised of 13 associations across Ohio, with the leadership of each CEO, fortified by committed board members, volunteers and long-standing supporters impacting and representing all communities, all constituents. We have long operated programs and supported policies and laws that 1) prevent domestic violence, and 2) support victims of domestic violence.

This bill is a step in that direction. The Ohio Council of YWCAs urges passage of this bill.