

3rd House District

Wood County

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

614.466.8104
Rep03@ohiohouse.gov



Chairman

Armed Services and Veterans
Affairs

Committees

Finance
Finance Subcommittee on
Higher Education
Transportation and Public Safety
Technology and Innovation

HARAZ N. GHANBARI

State Representative | Ohio House District 3

April 13, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and colleagues of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 205, Collin's Law, or otherwise known as the Ohio Anti Bullying and Anti Hazing Act. This bill is a necessary and well-constructed reform and expansion of current law that will go a long way to curb both bullying and hazing in the state of Ohio. The language that is now being heard is the result of several years of work by serious and dedicated legislators; most recently by former Representative Dave Greenspan of Westlake. I would like to publically thank him for the good work that he achieved during his service at the Statehouse.

This language is identical to the as-passed version of HB310 of the 133rd General Assembly which the House approved in November of last year by a vote of 74 to 14. While this bill is narrowly tailored to the issues of bullying and hazing in the revised code there are several changes that are made to current law through it; I will touch on some of those today. Generally speaking, what this bill does is to broaden the definition of bullying and hazing victims and perpetrators and prescribes certain disciplinary actions. As a whole, this bill aims to curb bullying and hazing through supporting victims and encouraging changed of behavior in perpetrators.

Bullying:

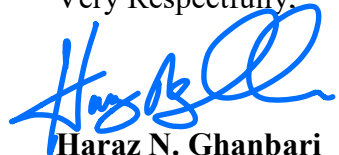
- Broadens definitions of victims and perpetrators to include students, teachers, administrators, faculty members or a volunteer of the district.
 - o This is to address student against adult and adult against student bullying.
- Requires that a district conduct an investigation if allegations of bullying are made and requires that the district notify the families of the students involved.
- Prescribes that if an instance of bullying is discovered that there shall be a discipline period of up to 10 days that may include detention, in-school suspension, out of school suspension and age appropriate community service at the discretion of the district for each instance of bullying.
 - o Student shall not participate in extracurricular activities during the discipline period.

- Provides mechanisms for districts to assist both victims and perpetrators in receiving counseling
 - o Funding dispersed through AG's office and created from fees collected from the Stop Bullying License Plate
- A district's bullying policy must be posted on their website and districts must keep a record of family notifications.

Hazing:

- Hazing is defined as an act of initiation relating to membership of an organization.
 - o This bill extends that definition to include acts relating to continuing or affirming membership of an organization. This change is made because pledge periods for Greek letter organizations has become shorter and shorter recently. Because of this many incidents of hazing have occurred after a member has initiated.
 - o Also includes in the definition of hazing coercing another to consume alcohol or drugs as defined in current law.
- Hazing Penalties: Raises a charge of hazing from Misdemeanor 4 to Misdemeanor 2.
 - o If drugs or alcohol is involved the penalty is a Felony 3.

Very Respectfully,



Haraz N. Ghanbari

Member of the Ohio House of Representatives