



April 13, 2021

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, and members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony of Senate Bill 90 to amend sections 2919.25, 2929.13, and 2929.14 of the Revised Code to expand the offense of domestic violence and prohibit a person from knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of a family or household member.

The Summit County Police Chiefs Association was established in 1985 and is made up of over 40 members in all law enforcement disciplines. We are dedicated to promoting and encouraging the highest professional standards of conduct and ethics for all law enforcement officers.

We promote service excellence and the safety of the communities we serve. Therefore, we support SB90, which would stiffen penalties for those who commit this violent crime and save the lives of many victims who live in fear of these offenders.

Victims of nonfatal strangulation and suffocation often have no visible injuries, yet the event can result in serious physical and mental health consequences. A study by Glass, et al. (2008) showed that prior non-fatal strangulation was associated with greater than six-fold odds of becoming an attempted homicide, and over seven-fold odds of becoming a completed homicide.

Ohio is the only remaining state that does not specifically address strangulation and suffocation in its laws. It is time to reflect the seriousness of this crime in our statutes.

Thank you for considering this important legislation.

Chief John A. Dalessandro / President

Chief Jeff Film / Vice President

Chief Perry A. Tabak / Secretary