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**Ohio Domestic Violence Network**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**November 15, 2022**  
**Written Proponent Testimony for SB 288**

Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 288. As Ohio's federally designated domestic violence coalition, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) advances the principle that all people have the right to an oppression and violence-free life. We recognize that multiple systems and organizations must work together to move Ohio toward equitable policies and practices to prevent the cycle of family violence.

SB 288 is an ambitious bill, and we would like to first recognize Senator Manning for his willingness to listen to our concerns. The substitute bill addresses all of them. We appreciate that there will be no changes to the CPO continuance process and that violations of protection orders and offenses committed under the domestic violence statute are not eligible for sealing or expungement of records. We support the changes proposed for expunging and sealing records for nonviolent misdemeanors.

We would like to highlight that the several risk factors for domestic violence are related to economic and financial security.<sup>1</sup> Incarceration and the criminal justice system often have extreme negative effects on the financial security of families and communities, and these effects can be generational. Recovering from the economic impact of being involved in the criminal justice system is extremely difficult for formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. They have an average unemployment rate of over 27%.<sup>2</sup> Formerly incarcerated Black people between 35 and 44 have much higher unemployment rates (43.6% for women, 35.2% for men)<sup>3,4</sup> than people who have not been incarcerated. The jobs they do have access to generally pay less than jobs available to individuals who have not been involved with the criminal justice system. SB 288's simplification of the sealing and expungement process will increase the number of individuals eligible to benefit from this process and improve their opportunities for employment and in turn, lower the risk factors for domestic violence.

On behalf of the ODVN and its 76 member programs, we would like to thank Senator Manning for his willingness to remediate the issues we raised for domestic violence survivors. We are happy to fully support SB 288 and believe that it can reduce risk factors for domestic violence perpetration in Ohio.

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<sup>1</sup> For a more information, please read our prevention handout titled Criminal Justice Systems Summary: [Intersecting Pandemics - Criminal Justice Systems Summary \(odvn.org\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Prison Policy Initiative. [Ohio prison and jail incarceration rate 1978-2015 | Prison Policy Initiative](#) Accessed November 2022

<sup>4</sup> The Sentencing Project. [U.S. Criminal Justice Data – The Sentencing Project](#) Accessed November 2022