

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Galonski and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 322,

My name is Paulette Schinkal Corbett and I am a constituent in Majority Leader Seitz's district. I am also a Catholic mother of 6, grandmother of 19 and retired Catholic school teacher. It is inherently abhorrent to me that any child would be sexually abused. I have known several victims of sexual abuse and the harm from this crime remains with the victim for a lifetime. All the child sex abuse victims I have known delayed disclosing their abuse until they were adults.

I have completed Virtus and Safe Parish training. Responsible adults can be trained to spot grooming and the distinct grooming stage of sexualization of the relationship. HB 322 would make this illegal in Ohio. At this time, responsible adults can report their concerns to the police and to child protective services, but little happens after the report. If the distinct sexualized stages of grooming are criminalized, we can empower law enforcement to stop abuse in its tracks.

As a deterrent to this type of heinous assault I believe HB 322 should become law in Ohio. It is our duty as responsible adults to protect the innocent from any type of abuse. I believe that HB322 and HB 124 are important steps to prevent abuse and provide justice to victims.