

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☐

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☐ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): _____

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☐ No ☐

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

I am concerned about the potentially adverse effects of House Bill 281 on Ohioans who are victims of all sorts of criminal acts. HB 281 proposes to overrule the Ohio Supreme Court's decision in *Buddenberg v. Weisdack*, which allows for crime victims to seek civil liability against perpetrators in cases where, for whatever reason, there is no criminal conviction.

For example, victims of stalking, telephone harassment, and non-assault violations of a protective order would NOT be able to sue their abusers. These abusers often go unpunished, and protection orders do not provide anything close to adequate remedies for the injuries caused by these abusers.

In the employment context, employees could be fired for refusing to commit perjury for their employers. For example, an employee who is told to lie under oath about a company's scheme to bribe state or local officials, and is fired for refusing, would have no remedy if the employer is not ultimately found guilty of committing a crime.

Likewise, employers who hire illegal immigrants could be protected. If this legislation were enacted, an employee who is fired for refusing to help their employer hire undocumented workers could not sue under Ohio law for civil damages, again if the employer is never convicted of any crime. Without R.C. 2307.60 as it is currently – and correctly – interpreted, such an employee would have no recourse.

Thank you for your consideration.