

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for giving my sister and I the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 314.

HB 314 is important and we hope after today this committee will feel the same. We are very thankful for the hard and diligent work from Representatives Bird and Williams on this much needed bill.

Also, we are very thankful for the professionalism and compassion and hard work that our Clermont County Prosecutor, Assistant Prosecutor, Law enforcement and Investigators provided to secure a Guilty plea from the Rapist. I can't tell you how important it was to our family that whenever we had a question or concern, we were able to reach out to The Prosecutor office as well as law Enforcement and they made themselves available to help us. I can't tell you how important the communication was for us, something that was not afforded to our family from the office of the Hamilton County Prosecutor or Assistant Prosecutor.

I believe my sister has done a fine job detailing to you the dealings and frustration she had with dealing with the Hamilton County Prosecutors office, the Judge and Magistrate when they took over the case for sentencing .

I'm sometimes not good at explaining my thoughts so I hope you please bear with me while I use a Sports analogy to get my point across. Imagine your a Running Back on a Football team and your playing in a very important game. The other team Kicks off to you and pin's you back on your 10 yard line where you must start. The Quarterback keeps handing you the ball and you are having sucess in grinding out yardage. Your fighting for every inch and yard. Your hurting and bloody, your exhausted but you are Lazer focused on scoring. Your efforts have gotten the ball down to the 3 yard line and you are confident that you are going to score. Than all of a sudden the Coach calls a time out and pulls you from the game and puts in another Running Back off the bench. You go to the Coach and your telling him that you need to finish the drive, your Blood and sweat and determination got them there. You have the momentum, LET ME FINISH THIS. The Coach does'nt listen and keeps you out. The new Running Back gets the ball

and fumbles. It's over. Your hard work is for nothing. Ladies and Gentleman, in essance this is what happened to our case. Clermont County did the heavy lifting and hard work and it goes to a very lenient

Hamilton County Court and this young Man basically get's a slap on the wrist and gets no just punishment except for counseling.

I know that had this stayed in Clermont County this young Man would have recieved a just punishment and would have sent a message to him that there are Consequences for his actions and he would be held accountable for his crimes. Ladies and Gentleman, kids have no fear today for their actions. I pray it doesn't happen but the odds are against him that he doesn't do this again. If the opportunity does arrive where he can do this to a child again he will remember that he got away from it once and will get away from it again. It would also send a message to the people of the county where the crime happened that their Prosecutors, Law enforcement and Judges have the best interest of their community and Constituents in mind and that they are protecting them from these predators and justice will be served.

In closing I pray that none of you ever has to experience what our family has gone through. If God forbid your loved one was raped and the predator got to go to his home county for sentencing and he in essence got away with it because of a Lenient Judge or Magistrate would you not fight to change this law ? There is an old saying, " My perception is my reality. " My perception is the rights of the predators were more important than this 6 year old little girl. Remember my sister testified that he made a comment to the investigators that she was autistic and did what she was told and couldn't tell on him because she can't speak, Ladies and Gentleman where was justice for her? Please Change this law and pass HB 314 ,

Thank you. Bill Mues