



State Representative Tom Young

37th Ohio House District

Chair Abrams, Vice-Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 351. This past August, a group of teenagers in Miamisburg found the dead body of a dog and then stabbed the corpse multiple times, finally throwing the body into a dumpster while posting about it on snapchat.

This unsettling incident caused quite the uproar in the area. However, the mutilation of a companion animal is not a crime per the Ohio Revised Code, which is what this legislation seeks to correct.

In my legislation no person, except as authorized by law, shall knowingly treat a companion animal corpse which is defined as any animal that is kept inside a residential dwelling and any dog or cat regardless of where it is kept, including a pet store, in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities. This does not include livestock or any wild animal.

Should the defendant be found guilty or plead guilty they will be charged with a fifth-degree felony and the court shall require that the offender undergo psychological evaluation or counseling. We need to make sure events like this do not continue to happen, and when they do those individuals involved receive help to prevent them from going down these dark paths.

Again, thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.