

Proponent Testimony HB 385

To the members of the Criminal Justice Committee

Hello my name is Brooke Collis; I am a survivor of human trafficking. I was trafficked from the age of 17 through 35. I am currently a loving mother and daughter. I work for Cardinal Treatment Center in Portsmouth Ohio. I live in the same city to where I was trafficked. For many years I have struggled from my past. Most of my life, starting at age 17, I've wanted to run away and hide. I did not want to face the embarrassment and turmoil I've endured during the multiple years from being trafficked. It has affected my life entirely. Today I'm facing this issue head on along with other strong independent woman who were also victims of human trafficking.

If House Bill 385 was passed it would give me and many other victims a chance to live our lives to the fullest, help put our past issues behind us and for the first time have a sense of peace.

I've gained loving and caring bonds with women who have had to face human trafficking.

Mary Nagel has been great support through all of this. Having other women that have been victims like myself, really has been a comfort to me and I'm able to finally speak out about this. I get to witness these women who have changed their lives for the better and it has given me motivation and a sense of freedom to do the same.