



**State Representative Juanita Brent  
22<sup>nd</sup> House District**

**Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 486**

Chairman Abrams, Vice Chairman Williams Ranking Member Brown, and the members of the House Criminal Justice Committee: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 486, Aisha's Law.

The bill commemorates the life of Ms. Aisha Frazier, a mother, teacher, and friend whose life was tragically ended by domestic violence. Aisha's Law is for the survivors of domestic violence, the men and women who still live in fear of their abuser.

Domestic violence is an invisible epidemic affecting every race, class, and gender. Over 1 in 3 of Ohio's men and women have experienced intimate partner physical violence. Someone you know, work with, and live by has suffered from domestic violence.

Aisha's Law's purpose is to increase protections for victims of domestic violence and prevent these tragedies from occurring. HB 486 requires officers who receive domestic violence complaints to be equipped with intervention technique training to best notice signs of high-risk and de-escalate situations. Aisha's Law ensures that officers can properly assess domestic violence cases and be able to refer high-risk victims to domestic violence advocacy services.

Aisha's Law recognizes that the perpetrators of domestic violence are often the ones closest to us. It expands the offense of "aggravated murder" to also include death caused by the victim's family or household members.

I respectfully ask this Committee to support House Bill 486. I am happy to address any questions you may have. Thank you for your time.