

## Proponent Testimony SB 214

To the members of the committee, Thank you for this opportunity.

Hello my name is Mary Nagel; I am a Survivor of Human Trafficking. I am not here to express the agony I have gone through over the years; I am here to express the gratitude I now have knowing that my voice is heard. I have been out of that life since January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Today I am a wife, a mother, a daughter, and a loving sister. I am employed at Cardinal Treatment Center, A Substance Abuse Program located in Portsmouth Ohio, yes, the same town where my abuse all started. My job Title is a Court Liaison/Admissions specialist. I work with some of the best retired law enforcement there is. Andy Davis, being the one who believed in me when no one else did. I currently cover the same court's that had sentenced me to multiple years incarcerated. Many law enforcement officers have asked me the question. How do you stay in the Town where all these horrible things have happened to you? My answer is very simple. I don't have to run anymore. I ran for so many years, not just geographically but mentally I stayed under the influence of drugs and alcohol. I developed Stockholm disease, to make things appear as if they were okay.

Senate Bill 214 being passed wouldn't change all the horrible things that have happened over the years however it would give me a sense of peace knowing that I still have a chance to become a Substance Abuse Counselor for Adolescents. With me and the abuse I have gone through. It came directly from attorneys, Judges, Law Enforcement, and even Correctional Officers. I have never been charged with soliciting, prostitution, or loitering in Ohio but that doesn't mean my abuse wasn't as harmful as others.

There are barriers to my perfectional development due to not qualifying to have my record expunged.

Thank you very much for listening to my story, listening to me, for taking the time to understand why this is so important to me.