

April 8th, 2025

Proponent Testimony for HB47

To the Honorable Ohio House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Stacey Altieri, and I am the Founder and Director of the ORRIN Collaborative to End Human Trafficking, serving Trumbull and Mahoning counties. I also serve as a Family Support Specialist for the Trumbull County Combined Health District. I am writing today to express my strong support for House Bill 47 (HB47), which I believe is a vital step forward in combatting human trafficking in our state.

Through my work, I have the privilege of walking alongside survivors of human trafficking, sexual assault, and childhood trauma as they navigate the difficult path toward healing and recovery. My position also puts me in direct contact with offenders, giving me firsthand insight into the recurring nature of crimes such as abduction and trafficking. What is clear is that many of these individuals possess a deep understanding of our judicial system, including the structure of crime and punishment. That is why I believe the increased minimum sentencing outlined in HB47 would serve as a significant deterrent for this population. While the relationship between incarceration and recidivism is a topic of ongoing debate, studies have consistently shown that therapy, vocational training, education, and substance abuse treatment dramatically reduce the likelihood of reoffending. Longer sentences not only create space for meaningful rehabilitation but also serve the dual purpose of protecting potential future victims by preventing the premature reintegration of habitual offenders into our communities.

Furthermore, I urge you to uphold Ohio's legal definition of a "minor" as anyone under the age of eighteen and ensure that HB47 fully applies to all individuals in this age group. Childhood trauma—including experiences of abduction and trafficking—has lasting effects that often manifest in adulthood. These include anxiety, depression, PTSD, borderline personality disorder, suicidal ideation, chronic pain, sleep disturbances, gastrointestinal issues, immune system dysfunction, cardiovascular disease, autoimmune disorders, and obesity. In my professional experience, unresolved childhood trauma frequently contributes to adult addiction and the intergenerational transmission of emotional suffering.

It is our duty to not only protect our children but to ensure that our judicial system reflects the gravity of crimes committed against them. HB47 is a critical step in that direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Stacey Altieri

Founder & Director, ORRIN Collaborative to End Human Trafficking

Family Support Specialist, Trumbull County Combined Health District