

6th House District

Columbus' Westside,
Franklin, Prairie, and Norwich
Township, and
Valleyview



Standing Committees

Agriculture
Insurance
Technology and Innovation

Christine Cockley, MPA

State Representative, Ohio House District 6

May 28th, 2025

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Public Safety Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony for HB 217, also known as the FIND Act. I am incredibly proud to sponsor this bill alongside my colleague, Representative Kevin Ritter.

Every morning on my way to work, I pass by a billboard on West Broad Street. On it, is the face of Andy Chapman—a man who went missing in my district over 15 years ago. His story, and the pain his family continues to endure, are constant reminders of the real human lives behind the statistics of missing persons. These are not just numbers; they are someone's neighbors, friends, and loved ones. And they deserve every possible resource to be brought home. His story and his family's advocacy is what inspired me to pursue this legislation.

Andy's case is not an isolated one. There are hundreds of families in Ohio still waiting for answers. What makes that wait even harder is knowing that we are not using all the tools we have available. Right now, law enforcement agencies in Ohio are not required to enter missing persons information into NamUs, a free national database that has helped resolve over 46,000 cases across the country.

HB 217 seeks to change that. The FIND Act would require law enforcement agencies in Ohio to enter missing persons information into NamUs within 30 days of a report being filed. This is a simple step that brings Ohio in line with best practices already adopted in 16 other states.

NamUs is unique. It is the only national database specifically dedicated to missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons, offering free forensic and investigative support to law enforcement, medical examiners, and families.

By making NamUs participation mandatory, this bill ensures that our investigators are working with the most complete information and that families and loved ones are given a greater public voice in the search process. The FIND Act empowers law enforcement with a powerful tool,

while ensuring families get the support they need and deserve in the most difficult moments of their lives.

We respectfully ask that you support HB 217 for the sake of every Ohioan still waiting for someone to come home.

Thank you for your time and consideration and we are open to any questions that the committee might have.

