

6/13/2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony for HB 217, also known as the FIND Act. My name is Aimee Chapman, and I am here in support of House Bill 217.

In 2006, my brother, Andy Chapman, went missing. We are in our 19th year of trying to find him. 19 years we have held out hope that Andy would come home to us. 19 years of worry, heart break, anger, sadness and unimaginable grief. He was a hardworking and family-oriented young man. He was happily married with a son and stepson and had been employed at the Franklin County Clerk of Courts for over 10 years. In 2003, Andy was in a car accident and was prescribed opioids. In two short years, his life was turned upside down. In 2005, Andy's wife filed for divorce. Andy sought treatment for his addiction at OSU and prioritized visitation meetings with his son. In 2006, he was fired from his job and began staying with friends that our family did not know. When we heard from Andy last, he had asked our mom to come to his apartment because he had something to give her. Unfortunately, our mom was sick, and an hour away from where Andy was staying. Two days later, when our mom went to his apartment, it was empty, and there was no sign of Andy or his roommates. After three months of no contact, our mom filed a missing person report with the Columbus Police Department. We were told that the report was filed and that CPD would be in touch. Months went by with no word from the police department or Andy. Grief took over as we waited for a call. Years later, we learned that Andy's case had been closed because a detective considered my brother a fleeing felon, not a missing person, with no notification to our family. The case was finally reopened by a new detective. In 2013, our family decided to declare Andy deceased to file for social security for Andy's son. In 2020 our family opened an estate in Andy's name hoping we would be able to pull records such as phone records and banking records. However, too much time had passed and records had been destroyed.

We still hold out hope Andy will return to us in person however, our focus has shifted to finding human remains. When remains are found, it's often the family of the missing that call the county coroner to make sure our loved ones if checked with the remains. If these DNA results were in Namus, more missing would be matched with remains. Each call to a coroner is torture for a family. Thoughts of what happened, how did they pass, how long were the remains there, how decomposed are the remains. Having to relive this trauma over and over is devastating.

When a person goes missing, their families are victims. They deserve consistent communication with detectives, updates on their cases, access to resources like fliers and DNA submissions, and increased accountability of detectives so that we follow through with recommendations.

Today I ask that you join me in supporting House Bill 217 for the sake of Ohio families like mine, who seek hope and resolution through heartbreaking events. This bill requires law enforcement to enter data regarding a missing person's report into NamUs, the national missing and

unidentified persons system. NamUs is a vital tool in missing people's cases. This bill will help families get information about their missing loved one, it will make sure action is being taken to bring missing loved one's home, and it will encourage cooperation and communication throughout agencies involved in these cases.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to take any questions that the committee has at this time.