



Representative Cindy Abrams

State Representative for the 29th House District

Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas and fellow members of the Public Safety Committee, it is a privilege to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 667, the Reagan Tokes and Patrick Heringer Act.

Patrick Heringer was a 46-year-old Army Veteran and small business owner, who was stabbed to death in his home while defending his wife from an intruder armed with a knife.

After graduating high school, Patrick Heringer joined the military and graduated from the University of Cincinnati. He would go on to serve our country for nine years as an Army Captain, completing tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Patrick received two Bronze Stars for his service to our country. He married his wife, Sarah, in 2016. Patrick and Sarah would start Findlay Movement, a beloved gym in the Over the Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati. Patrick was known as someone who truly changed people's lives for the better. He was considered "an exceptional and irreplaceable human" by those who knew and loved him.

The person that broke into the Heringer's home and attack Patrick and Sarah, was released from prison earlier in 2025 after serving time for felony assault and aggravated riot. He did not abide by the rules while incarcerated, which led to him being labeled a target violent offender. He was released from prison on a three-year period of supervised release known as Post Release Control beginning of January 2025. By February 2025, he told the halfway house he was leaving and walked out.

After reading the news coverage of this violent crime, I began to look into what could be done legislatively. Cincinnati Police Chief Teresa Theetge contacted me, offering her full support on any changes to current law to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again. The legislation in front of you today is a direct result of the time Chief Theetge and others put in, working with me on this bill. I met with members of the Cincinnati Police Department and FOP Queen City Lodge 69, Hamilton County Probation Department, the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Department of Public Safety, the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Ohio Attorney General, and the Ohio Community Corrections Association, among many others.

It was through these conversations that I was put in contact with Lisa Tokes, the mother of Regan Tokes. Regan was murdered in 2017 by an offender who was released from prison after serving a sentence for kidnapping a pregnant woman and her child and raping the woman. Lisa is here today, and you will hear from her shortly. The Reagan Tokes Act passed before my time in the Legislature. Lisa told me the portion that required real-time GPS ankle monitoring of offenders on supervised release from DRC was not included in the original Regan Tokes Act.

House Bill 667 contains three major portions: real-time GPS monitoring, entering warrants into LEADS, and modifying T-CAP requirements.

Under House Bill 667, Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison, otherwise known as T-CAP, is modified to allow judges more discretion to send repeat and problem offenders back to prison. This is for offenders who have previously been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more felony offenses that were not felony offenses of violence, offenders who were previously under a community control sanction for a felony offense and the community control was unfavorably terminated, and offenders who were under post-release control at the time of committing felony of the fourth or fifth degree. To be clear, this is not eliminating T-CAP. I truly believe that our community control facilities do great work. This provision is for those offenders that refuse to comply with the rules of the post release program.

One major point that was heard during conversations with interested parties was the notification to local law enforcement of warrants being issued when post release control offenders go AWOL or abscond. Tier one offenses are offenses of violence, other felony offenses that pose a substantial risk to public or officer safety, and the offense of misdemeanor domestic violence. House Bill 667 requires that probation and Adult Parole Authority (APA) parole officers enter a warrant into LEADS (Law Enforcement Automated Data System) and NCIC (National Crime Information Center) within 48 hours of issuing the warrant for an offender who breaks detention or fails to return to detention while under a community control sanction for a tier one offense or are designated as a targeted violent offender. When the warrants are entered, probation and APA parole officers must notify local law enforcement and the public safety answering point / 9-1-1 call center. Under current law, our law enforcement agencies must enter any warrants for tier one offenses into LEADS within 48 hours of receipt of the warrant. Communication among our law enforcement agencies is crucial.

The last portion of House Bill 667 is to require real time GPS monitoring of violent offenders. This provision was created with the help and feedback of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the LEADS administrators with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Following Patrick's death, DRC updated their internal policy to require real-time GPS ankle monitoring of offenders released from a state correctional institution. House Bill 667 simply codifies the policy Director Chambers Smith has put in place. This bill requires DRC to contract with a single vendor for GPS-monitored offenders. It requires that monitoring includes inclusionary and exclusionary zones, curfew times, and any other reasonable restrictions. It is required that DRC

and the vendor perform the actual monitoring of the offender and include a crime scene correlation program, which allows local law enforcement to obtain monitoring information. I thank Director Chambers Smith and her team at DRC; they have been at the table from the very beginning, and I am grateful for their partnership.

House Bill 667 contains important improvements to the Ohio Revised Code that could have saved the lives of Patrick and Reagan, and I believe this legislation will prevent more senseless tragedies from occurring. In the weeks to come, you will hear from Patrick's widow Sarah and the many interested parties who have taken the time to read the bill and have agreed to continue to be part of this important conversation. House Bill 667 is legislation that will truly work to keep our communities safe.

Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and fellow members of the Public Safety Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on the Reagan Tokes and Patrick Heringer Act. I would be happy to answer any questions.