



Representative Cindy Abrams

State Representative for the 29th House District

Chairman Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the House Technology and Innovation Committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 505.

Friday, May 2, 2025, was likely a normal day for most of us. Schools were getting ready for summer break, vacation plans were being made, and the weather was warming up. For Mrs. Henderson and her family, it would be the worst day of their lives.

Following his time with the United States Marine Corp, Larry Henderson served with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department for 33 years before retiring in December of 2024. Despite his retirement, Deputy Henderson loved his community and continued to serve special details for the Sheriff's Department when needed. One of those details was traffic control for the University of Cincinnati's Spring Commencement Ceremony on May 2nd, where the University welcomed tens of thousands of people on to campus.

While thousands of individuals were celebrating their college graduation, Deputy Henderson was ensuring that the people attending the ceremony could cross the busy street. Deputy Henderson stood at the corner of Martin Luther King Dr and Burnet Woods Dr in Clifton near the traffic box, on the sidewalk, manually running the light as a car entered the turn lane, waited for other traffic to pass before accelerating onto the corner, striking and killing him. One man made the decision to hit and kill Deputy Henderson because of the uniform he was wearing.

While proudly wearing the uniform, Larry Henderson was a man of high integrity, had a great sense of humor, and was compassionate. He was a husband, a father of five, a grandfather, and most recently, a foster father to a six-month-old and a two-year-old.

As the Henderson family was grieving the loss of their husband, father, and grandfather, Deputy Henderson's murderer had several online fundraising campaigns launched in his support. The FOP of Ohio and Queen City Lodge #69 were quick to call out the platforms that were allowing individuals to fundraise off the assassination of a law enforcement officer, stating that the horrific act should not be "rewarded and celebrated." As these "fundraisers" became more popular, GoFundMe quickly removed the fundraisers and let Lodge #69 know that their terms of service did in fact prohibit the raising of money for individuals charged with violent crimes and that there is zero tolerance for that type of behavior on their platform.

However, a loophole in Ohio's Son of Sam laws, which prohibit an individual accused or convicted of crime from profiting from the story, showed that this did not apply to crowdfunding. GiveSendGo

currently hosts a fundraiser on its platform for Deputy Henderson's murderer that has raised over \$54,000 to make "donations for legal fees." House Bill 505 is a commonsense piece of legislation that will fix this loophole and codify under Ohio law that an individual who is charged or convicted of a vicious and violent crime cannot profit off their actions on crowdfunding platforms.

Chair Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the House Technology and Innovation Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 505. I will turn it over to Representative Odioso to talk about the details of the bill.