

Chairman, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee,

My name is Lori Henderson, and I am the wife of Hamilton County Deputy Sheriff Larry Henderson Jr.

In May, my husband was murdered in the line of duty. Larry was not just a deputy, but he was a father, a husband, a son, a friend, and a man who dedicated his life to protecting this community. He put on his uniform every day, knowing the risks, but believing deeply in service, honor, and doing what was right.

Since his death, our family has had to endure the unimaginable, the grief, the trauma, and the permanent void left in our lives.

What has compounded that pain is learning that the suspect's family has been able to use online crowdfunding platforms to raise money connected to his alleged criminal act.

No family should have to bury their loved one while simultaneously watching funds be raised in a way that appears to support or glorify the very act that took their life.

The original purpose of Ohio's "Son of Sam" law was clear: individuals should not profit from violent crimes. In today's world, crowdfunding has become another avenue where that principle must apply.

This issue is not about denying someone the right to legal representation. It is about ensuring that violent crime is not monetized, promoted, or indirectly rewarded through public fundraising campaigns. It is about accountability, transparency, and basic decency.

When money is raised online in connection with a violent offense, victims' families are forced to relive the trauma. It sends a message that the criminal act can generate sympathy, financial gain, or public support — while the victim's family continues to suffer in silence.

My husband cannot speak for himself. But I can speak for him.

Larry stood for justice. He stood for the rule of law. And he stood for protecting others.

Extending Ohio's "Son of Sam" law to include crowdfunding platforms is a necessary step to protect victims and their families from further harm.

I respectfully ask you to support this legislation so that no other family has to endure what ours has, not just the loss, but the added pain of watching a tragedy turned into a fundraising opportunity.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to justice.