



Senator Susan Manchester - 12th District

Senate Judiciary Committee

October 15th, 2025

Senate Bill 225 – Sponsor Testimony

Thank you, Chair Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for this opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 255, which would expand the Secretary of State's successful *Safe at Home* address confidentiality program to help more victims of violent crime protect their personal information and stay safe.

Ohio's *Safe at Home* program was established in 2016 to allow victims of certain types of violence to keep their home addresses confidential, protecting them from individuals who may wish to cause them harm. Currently, survivors of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, rape, or sexual battery are eligible to participate in the program.

However, other victims of violent crime may face similar safety concerns. For example, a gunshot victim may need to relocate to secure their safety and then shield their new address from those who previously targeted them.

Senate Bill 255 extends eligibility for Ohio's *Safe at Home* address confidentiality program to survivors of other types of violent assault, including victims of gun violence and family members of homicide victims. Expanding the program ensures that Ohioans impacted by violence can protect themselves and their families from future harm.

The funds required to support the expansion have already been allocated in the most recent state operating budget. SB 255 simply provides the legislative authority to expand the program's eligibility and would not require the allocation of any additional financial resources.

For nearly a decade, the *Safe at Home* program has provided a vital service to survivors of violence across Ohio. It has offered peace of mind and physical safety to countless individuals who deserve the chance to rebuild their lives without fear. Senate Bill 255 builds on that success by extending the same protections to more victims of violence who need it most.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 225 and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.