



**CRIME
SURVIVORS
SPEAK**

info@safeandjust.org
crimesurvivorsspeak.org

November 4, 2025

Good morning Chair Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. As a member of Ohio Crime Survivors Speak, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 225.

My name is Tia Benton and I work to connect victims of crime to mental health and safe housing services. We serve victims of crime by providing wrap around services such as mental health, trauma recovery, help applying for victims compensation and connecting survivors to safe housing.

Currently, victims of survivors of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, rape, or sexual battery are able to keep their addresses confidential through Ohio's Safe at Home program. However, too many victims of other types of violent crimes go unprotected. This bill would expand the program to victims of other types of violent assault, including of victims of gun violence and family members of homicide victims so that they too can keep their addresses confidential for their safety.

Because I work with crime victims everyday, I know, better than most, that if a victim of crime doesn't feel safe at home, they can't heal. If their address can be compromised - they aren't safe.

When an address is public the perpetrator can find it, and even if a survivor has moved, the perpetrator can come after them again. If your address is not protected, you constantly look over your shoulder. I have heard time and time again the story of survivors continuing to live in fear for their lives after finding what should be safe housing. And I've even heard the trauma that people have faced after their new address was exposed by the media.

When I was a child our house was shot up. We had to abruptly move, leaving half our belongings behind and moving five of us into a studio apartment. If my mother could have had access to the address confidentiality program, we all could have all felt safer after the move. We might not have constantly been on the look out. I might not, to this day, jump at certain noises.



**CRIME
SURVIVORS
SPEAK**

What is most important as a victim of violence is that you find safety, you know you are safe and that you have access to counseling and other services to heal. We were not able to have those things. That is part of the reason I work everyday to make sure survivors of violence get the help, safety and support they need to heal and recover.

With address protection, once we relocate a victim, they can stop constantly living in fear and begin the work of healing. This is why I feel it is critical that we expand the Safe at Home address confidentiality program to victims of other violent support.

I urge the committee to vote in support of SB 225.

Thank you.

Tia Benton
Columbus Member of Crime Survivor's Speak