



Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose
Proponent Testimony: SB 225
November 5, 2025

Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 225, which expands the Safe at Home program.

This program protects the confidentiality of survivors of domestic violence, sexual battery, human trafficking, rape, or menacing by stalking. It allows them to receive mail, buy a house, and participate in elections without any fear that their abuser will find them by searching for their voter registration or other public governmental information.

When a person enrolls as a participant in Safe at Home, my office does the following: assigns them a substitute address to serve as their address in state and local records, provides them with mail forwarding to keep their home address away from private companies, provides a special confidential voter registration form, and provides information about legal pathways to protect real estate records for those who want to purchase a home. This program offers Ohioans who have endured significant challenges the opportunity to stay safe, participate in democratic processes, and ultimately rebuild their lives.

This program has the potential to provide these protections for many others. As mentioned in my operating budget testimony, I support the General Assembly's efforts to expand the eligibility of the Safe at Home program in a manner that allows those who should be in the program but cannot access its services to enroll. Senate Bill 225 accomplishes this goal by permitting survivors of crimes that suffer serious bodily harm or are threatened with a deadly weapon. The bill also permits household members of these survivors to be eligible for the program, as well as household members of murder victims. This is a vulnerable population that should be able to live without fear of their attacker finding them or their household members with a simple internet search.

An expansion has the potential to increase enrollment in the Safe at Home program, which could increase the need for an appropriation from the General Assembly to support additional staff and program capacity.

I appreciate Senator Manchester's leadership on this issue and remain available to provide additional information at any time.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Frank LaRose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "LaRose" clearly legible.

Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State