

Senate Agriculture Committee
Carol A. Myers Testimony
October 20, 2015

Chairman Hite, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Gentile and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Thank you for reading this testimony concerning the Klonda Richey Act.

Klonda Richey was my cousin. My mom and her dad were siblings. Klonda loved animals, especially cats and she owned several.

Her neighbors owned two dogs and she was very fearful of them. Even though she feared they would someday harm her, she would toss them peanut butter sandwiches when they were chained to her neighbor's back deck. She knew they were hungry. On many occasions the dogs ran at large in the neighborhood. They charged at her several times and she would hurry into her home to prevent being bitten.

Sixty calls were made concerning those two dogs. Klonda made twenty-three to twenty-six of those calls. She called the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center and she also called the Dayton Police through 911. Klonda did everything within the law, yet she received no protection or help. She appeared before a magistrate to ask for a protection order due to threats that her neighbor made to her. He said he would allow his dogs to tear her to pieces and feed her pieces to her cats as treats. Her request was denied. To think if someone would have responded and found the dogs, Klonda's death could have possibly been prevented is heartbreaking.

I am asking you as part of the law makers of our great state to please pass the Klonda Richey Act. No one should ever have to die the horrible, painful death that Klonda died on February 7, 2013. No family should have to go through the tragic news that their loved one has been mauled to death by two dogs. The dogs that Klonda said many times she feared would one day kill her.

The Klonda Richey Act would hold owners responsible for their dogs harming or killing someone. It has been said if you want someone killed in Ohio, get your dog to do it.

When this Act is passed it will be a felony, not a misdemeanor when a death occurs by a dog mauling. Klonda was a well-liked, law abiding citizen who worked at the Montgomery County Children's Services as a purchasing clerk. She gave back to her community by doing volunteer work. My family believes everything happens for a reason. Passing the Klonda Richey Act would be a tribute to Klonda.

The Act would prevent future attacks by ensuring the system requires action be taken when an individual has a complaint or a safety concern. It would strengthen dog laws and prevent another dog mauling tragedy and another family from going through the heartbreak of losing a loved one to such a senseless yet horrific death. It's sad to think one has to die in order for laws to be passed to protect others. As I stated earlier, Klonda volunteered to help others. She would be very pleased and honored the Klonda Richey Act was passed to help protect others.

Thank you for your attention.
Carol A. Myers