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COMMITTEES:

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Civil Justice  
Education  
Transportation and Public Safety  
Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review  
Criminal Justice Recodification

Chair Butler, Vice Chair Hughes, Ranking Member Boggs, and fellow members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 1. I also would like to thank former Representative Kuhns and my joint sponsor, Representative Sykes, for their hard work on this bill in the previous general assembly.

Current law allows for civil protection orders in domestic violence situations, but does not include individuals who are dating but are not members of the same household. The US Department of Justice defines dating violence as “violence and abuse committed by a person to exert power and control over a current or former dating partner, and this often involves a pattern of escalating violence and abuse over a period of time.” Due to the risk of ongoing violence in these situations, it is important that all victims of abuse have resources to protect themselves. Many people argue that a piece of paper is not going to protect someone from harm, but studies have shown that violence stops completely or is significantly reduced when a protection order is in place.

The intent of HB 1 is to allow victims of violence within a dating relationship to petition the court for a civil protection order. By passing this legislation, Ohio would become the 49<sup>th</sup> state to update their protection order statutes to include relationships where dating partners don’t reside in the same home or have a child in common but are part of a committed dating relationship. It’s important to note that HB 1 does not create a new classification of restraining order, but rather allows dating partners to file for an order similar to the victims of domestic violence. Thank you Chair and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony, and I will be happy to answer any questions.