



# Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Judge Ronald B. Adrine**  
**Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 146**

Chair Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to submit proponent testimony for Senate Bill 146 on behalf of the Ohio Judicial Conference. I am Judge Ronald B. Adrine. I retired from the Cleveland Municipal Court in 2018 after serving for 36 years. For 20 of those years, I was the co-author of *Ohio Domestic Violence Law*. I have served on the Governor's Task Force on Family Violence, the Ohio Attorney General's Victim's Assistance Advisory Board, and the Supreme Court of Ohio's Domestic Violence Task Force. I sit on the National Board of Futures Without Violence and serve as faculty for the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence and the Ohio Judicial College.

The Ohio Judicial Conference supports S.B. 146's recognition of the lethal impact strangulation has on domestic violence victims. Many judges have had to face the reality of domestic violence on a daily basis in our courtrooms. Judges know strangulation is one of the most prominent lethality factors in assessing the danger of domestic violence. Even non-fatal strangulation impedes oxygen flow to the brain, which can cause lasting brain injuries. Research shows that a domestic violence victim is nearly 750% more likely to be killed by their abuser when previously strangled by that person.<sup>1</sup> Yet Ohio is currently one of only three states that does not specifically address strangulation in statute.

We thank the sponsors, Senator Kunze and Senator Antonio, for their work to increase awareness in this important area. I thank you for considering my testimony. Please reach out to me or the Judicial Conference if you have any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> "Prior non-fatal strangulation was associated with greater than six-fold odds (OR 6.70, 95% CI 3.91–11.49) of becoming an attempted homicide, and over seven-fold odds (OR 7.48, 95% CI 4.53–12.35) of becoming a completed homicide." *Non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for homicide of women* by Nancy Glass, PhD, MPH, RN, et al. (accessible at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2573025/>).