

Chairman Hillyer,

I appreciate your willingness to discuss modifications to the law pertaining to the untimely death of an adult child.

While the current law in its form when written was in all likelihood well intended and necessary, times do indeed change and laws need to adapt to the reality of those changes.

There can be many reasons biological parents become estranged. Be it good or bad, that is up to them. In a time where children out of wedlock is not uncommon, when a parent moves away, when situations arise that one parent abandons the relationships with the child altogether, these events do happen at a rate that exceeds the standard for which the existing law was crafted.

When considering amending laws, one must ask relevant questions. Why was it written originally? How has it stood the test of time? What are scenarios where it would hinder instead of benefit? Is it truly worthy of amending or outright repeal?

The answers in the case of this particular law are:

- Agreed that a succession order pertaining to deceased MUST be codified.
- Times evolve in the instance of the dynamic of raising children.
- A scenario would be two 40 year old divorcees with one child. One parent moves out of state for work while the child remains in Ohio, all agreed upon by both parents. The parents do their best to raise the child and there is no animosity. At 19, an accident occurs, and the funeral arrangements are now stymied by cross state emails, certified letters, faxes, etc. all hindering and dragging out not just a solemn ceremony, but a celebration of a beautiful life tragically cut short.
- Repeal would cause chaos. Amending to adapt is the logical option.

For the answers above, full support should be given to amending this law. Rep. Galonski's proposal is sound, coherent, and paves the way for a time relevant to today with respect to the original purpose. In the service to all parents who have had to live through the ultimate sorrow of out living their child, this proposal will ease their pain knowing that their grieving and heartache of the process would be lesser a burden on a fellow Ohioan.

This law, as written, and as proposed is one of those painful ones that no one likes to discuss and worse off put to use. I thank you Chairman for your entertaining of it, Rep. Galonski's forthcoming with it, and on behalf of those who never want to see their peers live through it.

Respectfully,
Thomas Bebe Heitic,
Council At-Large, Barberton Ohio