

Testimony in Support of HB3 To address making changes to civil and criminal law regarding domestic violence, address State Highway Patrol arrest authority, name the act Aisha's Law, and to make an appropriation Sponsors: Representative Boyd and Representative Carruthers

Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 3, legislation that would amend sections 109.744, 109.803, 2903.01, 2919.25, 2919.27, 2929.12, 2929.13, 2929.14, 2929.22, 2935.03, 2935.032, 2937.23 and 3113.31; to amend, for the purpose of adopting a new section number as indicated in parentheses, section 2935.033 (2935.034); and to enact new section 2935.033 and section 2919.261 of the Revised Code to make changes to civil and criminal law regarding domestic violence, to address State Highway Patrol arrest authority, to name the act Aisha's Law, and to make an appropriation.

I am writing to you regarding House Bill 3. As a Victim Advocate specifically working on Violence Against Women Cases, I have attended numerous classes regarding strangulation, and wanted to point out some facts that are of concern.

- A survivor of strangulation is 750 times more likely to be a victim of homicide
- Women make up the vast majority of survivors of strangulation and victims of homicide by strangulation

House Bill 3 should not be considered an anti-strangulation bill, it should be considered an anti-homicide bill as it is my believe that with harsher punishments for strangulation we are sending a message to those that commit this offense that it will not be tolerated. In doing so we can effectively help reduce the strangulation homicide rate in Ohio.

Not passing this bill is sending a message to ALL females in Ohio that their safety and life is not your priority. This bill was brought to the Senate in February of 2021, as you are aware there are now less than sixteen months left for the House to agree to pass this bill and make it to the Governor's desk. In the next sixteen months several meetings and hearings need to take place for that to happen. Ohio is currently only 1 of 2 states to not consider strangulation a felony, in fact it has been remarked by several Ohio Senator's that strangulation can fall under domestic violence.

Please consider what that means, and that for someone to receive a felony charge for strangulation, they would need to commit this crime not once, but twice for them to receive a felony domestic violence charge. This also means that we run the risk that if the first strangulation does not result in

homicide, the second strangulation likely could. As a female constituent in Ohio, I implore you to do what is right for all survivors and victims of strangulation and take a stance that Ohio will not tolerate strangulation and will not be the LAST state to tell survivors and victims of strangulation! That as a state, we care about their safety and their life is your priority.

Thank you for your time,

Kelsey Dennis

Victim Advocate