

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 today as a constituent of Ohio in regards to House Bill 3.

In our current climate it is more important than ever that we make changes to our laws to protect our citizens. The Gabby Petito case is nationally making headlines for her tragic death by strangulation.

To learn that my state, the state of Ohio is only one of 2 states that does not consider strangulation a standalone felony offense was disheartening to say the least. The fact that 48 other states prosecute this as a felony and we do not must change!

The act of strangulation is commonly a precursor to murder, it is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. It only takes 11 lbs of pressure to the neck to block blood flow, becoming unconscious within seconds and can lead to death within minutes. To put that into perspective a females handshake is commonly 60-80 lbs of pressure, a males is 75-100 lbs.

No one "accidentally" finds themselves with their hands around someone's neck. This is an intimate, deliberate act being committed. Stranglers don't just murder partners but they are tied to the murders of our Police force and to mass shootings as well: Omar Mateen (Orlando nightclub), Devin Patrick (1st Baptist Church TX) and Connor Betts (Ned Peppers bar Dayton OH) to name a few recent examples, all had at least attempted to strangle someone before they moved on to commit these mass casualty crimes.

It is embarrassing that our great state of Ohio does not do enough to protect its citizens and make strangulation a felony. There were 131 domestic violence fatalities last year (a 20% increase from the prior year and a 62% increase from 2 years) if not now when?! What will it take for Ohio to protect and

stand up for its victims and survivors? To help put a stop to this and hold people accountable for their actions with more severe charges and harsher sentences to punish these people for their crimes. Show the people of Ohio that you want to help protect them, that you value their lives and the lives of their loved ones, and that you believe these criminals should be punished and put away before it escalates.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Allison Johnson