

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

HB 3

“AISHA’S LAW”

OCTOBER 21, 2021

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland and all the members of the Government Criminal Justice Committee. We are presenting this testimony on behalf of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), as co-State Policy Advocates of Ohio. We urge you to vote in support of HB 3, Aisha’s Law.

Domestic violence (DV) is a crime that we can all agree needs to be addressed and reduced. Using best practices and researched-based legislation is important to making a difference in the lives of people experiencing this type of abuse. The creation of a Domestic Violence Prosecution Study Committee and the request that the Supreme Court review the Rules to better aid victims without diminishing fundamental fairness to alleged perpetrators are two such provisions that will help towards this effort.

Another important provision of HB 3 recognizes strangulation as an important indicator of an abuser’s threat level. According to Joni E. Johnston, Psy.D, in *Psychology Today*, “Batterers who strangle their victim are more likely to engage in other extreme acts of violence; it’s a message that there are no limits to which he won’t go. The odds are, he’s willing to kill,” she writes. Adding strangulation and suffocation to Ohio’s domestic violence crimes and requiring law enforcement to warn victims of its risk of lethality brings our state into compliance with proven best practices and has the potential to save countless lives.

This law also provides protective orders around the clock, another important provision to supporting people experiencing DV.

Our mission as an organization is to support women, children and families. Indeed, our National Resolutions call for “Laws, policies, programs, and services that protect every woman from all forms of abuse, exploitation, harassment, discrimination, and violence.” This bill, which is supported in a strong bi-partisan way as evidenced by the list of co-sponsors, is an important step toward building safer homes, families, and communities. It was passed in the House unanimously last term. We hope it can move quickly, with your support, toward becoming law.

Susan Reis and Erinn Stark (she/her),
co-State Policy Advocates of Ohio
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