



LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL M. KAVANAUGH
SQUADRON COMMANDER, 178TH WING

Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 4. I am Lieutenant Colonel Paul Kavanaugh, a Squadron Commander within the 178th Wing at Springfield, Ohio. Senate Bill 4 allows certain designated professions within our organization the ability to remove their name, residential, and familial information from any record made publicly available to include those on the internet or a publicly accessible database. This bill adds protections, not exemptions, for the Ohio airmen participating in duties directly related to remotely piloted aircraft, including, but not limited to, Pilots, Sensor Operators, and Mission Intelligence Personnel.

I will share with the committee a consequential example of easily accessible personal information. On May 4, 2016, our 178th Operations Group received notification that a “hit list” posted online by the Islamic State Hacking Division named one of our fellow 178th Wing Airman and included not only a recent picture but also her current Ohio residential address. The 178th Operations Group immediately contacted this Airman, verified her safety, and notified her of the source document. This particular Airman, prior to joining the Ohio Air National Guard, had served as an active duty sensor operator for the MQ-9 weapon system at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada; while stationed at Creech, some publicly released information included her image and name. Resultantly, those small pieces of information and an inexpensive, easy internet search enabled our adversaries to obtain not only more current images but also her public tax records and thus her Ohio home address.

Passing Senate Bill 4 ensures simple additional protections for the Ohio citizen Airmen and their families who dedicate their lives to the safety and security of all Americans. I am appreciative for the Ohio legislature’s commitment to the continued protection of our members and their families. I respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 4 and welcome any questions you have at this time.