

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 183 – Proponent Testimony
Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Thank you, Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 183, The Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act. I am Carolyn Kinkoph, mother and Legal Guardian of a human trafficking survivor. I strongly support S.B. 183 to amend section 2953.38 of the Ohio Revised Code to allow human trafficking survivors to have the ability to expunge certain criminal records. The availability for expungement without predicate charges of soliciting, loitering, and prostitution convictions¹ will prevent further traumatization and empower survivors with trauma-informed recovery, employment, housing and community support.

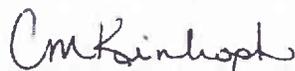
My 29-year-old daughter, Courtney, suffers from mental trauma and poly-substance abuse issues. She has been reported missing to police several times since 2016 and repeatedly victimized due to her vulnerabilities. Courtney was charged with attempted possession in Willoughby Municipal Court, Case Number 18CRB03512, as a result of an incident on September 21, 2018. Her case was transferred to the Mentor Municipal Court Mental Health Docket on March 7, 2019.

On June 1, 2019, Courtney was reported missing from her group home. She missed a scheduled court appearance at Mentor Municipal Court which resulted in a special warrant being issued by Judge Trebets. After Courtney was located several months later, her father and I hired an Uber driver to bring her home from Detroit, Michigan on September 5, 2019. She was incarcerated upon her return as a result of the warrant from missing her mental health court date.

Courtney was released on March 7, 2020 after serving 6 months in Lake County Adult Detention Center. Subsequently, a Civil Protection Order was granted in March 2020 in the Court of Common Pleas, Lake County Ohio, Case Number 20CS000061. This Civil Protection Order provides protection for my daughter against the Respondent who had a history of facilitating her prior human trafficking victimization and helped her to run away from the group home in June 2019.

There are no predicate charges of Solicitation, Loitering to Solicit, or Prostitution² for Courtney. Without the ability to expunge her record, she has been burdened with explaining her criminal record to potential landlords and employers. As a human trafficking survivor's parent, it is important to me that survivors are not retraumatized and that they are empowered to rebuild their lives by receiving needed trauma-informed recovery, employment, housing and community support. S.B. 183 can make a difference for my daughter, Courtney, and for many human trafficking survivors. I would be glad to answer any questions.

Kind Regards,



Carolyn M. Kinkoph

¹ ORC [2953.38\(B\)](#)

² ORC [2907.24](#), [2907.241](#), and [2907.25](#)