

Testimony to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Connie Swavel

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 216 on behalf of myself

*Senate Bill 216 - Dylan's Law*

November 8, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, Members of the Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for SB 216 Dylan's Law. By moving this bill to a law, the life of Dylan will be honored and it will help bring justice for Dylan Grooves, a precious baby that was taken from this world too soon. We who are concerned continue to keep baby Dylan's memory alive and seek change for foster children.

We encourage you to continue to fight on this baby's behalf almost 3 years later. We have tried to change things, we have talked to the right people, yet today we are still fighting for change. We need change today. We were told things like this take time again and again.

We don't have time. Time is against the neglected children. This law is for all the innocent children in foster care. Dylan's Law will protect their innocence and safety.

Foster care is a system in which a child has been placed into a home of a state-certified caregiver, approved by the state. The placement of the child is normally arranged through a children's social service. Choosing to be a foster parent means choosing to give a child love and stability at a time when they need it most.

According to Ohio guidelines for foster care Ohio has more than 6,000 foster parents who open their hearts and homes to children during a very difficult time when families can't address the concerns that made the placement necessary.

Because of this and the impact of the ongoing opioid epidemic, there is a constant need for new foster families.

Some of the most common reasons for a child to enter the foster care system include one or more of the following reasons: children are subjected to substantiated maltreatment, abuse, and neglect.

The children in foster care should be our number one concern. Concerns should be to protect and meet each child's needs. This is so they will not be deprived of a loving caring home which they deserve.

Praying for change in the foster care system. Dylan's Law will be justice for baby Dylan and all innocent foster children.

Sincerely,

Connie Swavel