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Thank you Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Judiciary Committee for this opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 166, otherwise known as the Reagan Tokes' Bill. Some of you may be familiar with Reagan's tragic story. Reagan was a young woman, just a couple months shy of graduating from college, when she was kidnapped, raped, and killed by a man that was just recently released from prison, he was being supervised on parole, he had been assigned a GPS ankle monitor, and he was living in state supported transitional housing. Prior to killing Reagan, this man committed multiple violent assaults and robberies, but continued to evade law enforcement. The events leading up to Reagan's tragedy are as much a part of the foundation of this bill as Reagan's death, and so I am going to start from the beginning.

On January 23, 16 days before Reagan was killed, another woman was assaulted in her garage as she was trying to get into her car. Her assailant, Reagan's killer, beat her face and sent her to the hospital with significant facial wounds.

This incident sent shock waves through the community. This happened in German Village which is an area of town that experiences "crimes of opportunity" homes and cars may be broken into when no one is around. But to have a violent confrontational incident where someone suffers significant physical harm is not normal.

January 24, a woman was robbed at knifepoint walking out of her house in German Village

January 27, a woman crossing the street to go to work at Nationwide Children's Hospital in German Village was robbed at knifepoint.

All of these victims are giving the same description of the perpetrator, the media begins saying that these crimes are connected and calling for help to identify the person—but law enforcement can't find him, even though he's on parole, and he's wearing a GPS tracker, and he is living in supervised transitional housing paid for by the state.

Feb. 1, a man was robbed at gunpoint, and he gives the same description as other victims.

Feb 2, another man was approached at his car and forced at gunpoint to drive to an ATM to withdraw \$\$.

By this point the entire community is on edge. It's been over a full week with a violent criminal incident nearly every day. And everyone is describing the same person, but no one can figure out who it is.

I will never forget this time—I was a new mom, Sloane was just born the previous month. And I felt helpless as block watches were activated, neighbors were on high alert, police were providing extra resources, but there was a strong sense throughout the community that as long as this person was out there that he would strike again.

Feb. 6, a woman was robbed at gunpoint outside her home in German Village.

Feb 7, another woman working at Nationwide Children's Hospital was robbed at gunpoint.

On Feb. 9, at 4pm Reagan's sister Mackenzie who was 17 and living in FL tweeted:
EVERYONE please help my sister Reagan Tokes is missing from OSU. PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING. PLEASE PRAY.

This tweet went viral—it was like throwing gasoline on fire. For all the people that had been living in fear that this unknown person would continue to escalate his violence—they immediately began speculating that there was a connection between Reagan going missing and the crime spree happening.

What's important to understand is that you had German Village on high alert. Reagan was abducted leaving her job in the Short North, so now Short North is on high alert that this crime is spreading. And because Reagan was an OSU student, the University District is now on high alert. Everyone is looking for Reagan and everyone is hoping that the person terrorizing the community would be apprehended.

In the early hours of the next morning, Reagan's body was found naked in the middle of the metro park, snow on the ground, with 2 gunshot wounds.

Outrage, sorrow, disbelief, washes over German Village, Short North, University District and spreads across all of Franklin County. There is so much speculation that all these crimes are

connected and this dark sense of certainty that this violence will not stop until the person that killed Reagan is found.

Everyone is looking for this man— this man that is on parole, wearing a GPS monitor, and is living in supervised transitional housing being paid for by the state. No one makes the connection, with all that oversight, until Reagan's car is found and there is a cigarette butt left in it.

A cigarette butt. Not a single measure put in place by the state to help ensure a safe and successful transition from incarceration to community release was working, or helpful to his apprehension. The careless mistake of leaving a cigarette butt in the car is the only reason he got caught.

HB 166 started with a question: how can this happen? How can a man just released from prison, placed on supervised parole, required to wear a GPS monitor, and living in supervised transitional housing terrorize a community for over 2 weeks, commit ½ a dozen violent assaults, before kidnapping, raping and killing a woman?

The only answer is that there were multiple failures. HB 166 seeks to fix the systemic failures that came to light after this tragedy. HB 166 is not a perfect bill. I have had so many conversations over the last 5 years squarely focused on its imperfections. But HB 166 is a step toward progress. It is a reflection of a lot of work that brings together many different organizations that often have very different ideologies on criminal justice reforms. Sometimes we got a few of those organizations to agree, sometimes not. When we couldn't find consensus between stakeholders we were guided by what we believed Ohioans would want. I am very proud to say that this bill passed the floor without a single member voting against it.

First, HB 166 requires that every GPS monitor have restrictions, either inclusionary or exclusionary zones affiliated with that monitor. There is a lot of confusion around what people call "real time" GPS monitoring— this isn't a thing. A parole officer could watch a dot on a map move around all day, in real time, but that is meaningless if the PO doesn't know where the dot is supposed to be or not be. Inclusionary and exclusionary zones notify the person supervising the monitor if that person is somewhere they shouldn't be. While GPS monitors can provide evidence after crimes occur, they do not help prevent crimes without having restrictions placed on them.

Secondly, the bill requires the ODRC to develop a plan within twenty-four months to establish a reentry system for those that are rejected from the private reentry programs. Currently, Ohio contracts with several private companies that assist men and woman through the transition from prison to society. These companies provide housing, workforce development, and a supportive

environment to enhance their continued rehabilitation. These companies do good work, but they will not work with individuals that are considered too violent or dangerous for their programs. Consequently, the people that are in need of the most support end up being released with the least amount of support.

HB 166 also requires the ODRC to create standards for parole officer caseload sizes. We have significantly less parole officers today than we did ten years ago. Unfortunately, we do not have less people on parole. In 2010, DRC employed approximately 528 parole officers to supervise approximately 26,500 parolees. Yet in 2019, DRC employed only about 487 parole officers to supervise nearly 39,000 parolees. In the last decade the state has decreased the number of parole officers by nearly 8% and increased the number of people on supervision by nearly 40%. You don't have to be that smart to figure out this is not going to result in safer communities. We need to fix this.

Additionally, HB 166 will set forth an ongoing study commission to be housed under the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission to ensure that our post release control supervision policies are in step with national best practices.

We also included some fixes to SB 201, which was passed in December 2018 and is also known as the Reagan Tokes Act and it dealt exclusively with criminal sentencing. After the bill was enacted, the Ohio Judicial Conference presented us with feedback that certain provisions were causing confusion and we accepted their recommendations to clarify some language.