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Committees
Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development
Higher Education & Workforce Development
Education & Career Development

State Representative Catherine D. Ingram

Rep. Catherine D. Ingram Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 331
House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor committee
April 10th, 2018

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 331. The substitute bill will allow individuals involved in vehicular accidents in Ohio the ability to indicate on accident reports that they do not wish to be contacted via phone calls for commercial solicitation periods for 30 days after the accident.

Currently under Ohio law, accident reports by law enforcement agencies are made available to the public as required by state public records laws. These accident reports are used by companies working on behalf of lawyers and medical practitioners in order to call and solicit business for legal and medical services almost immediately after the accident takes place—usually the next morning. For individuals who do not need these services after an accident—these calls are a nuisance that disrupt work hours and family time for weeks as the calls continue to come in—however, for some unsuspecting individuals, these calls trap them into signing up for services that end up costing thousands of dollars.

This legislation is permissive and is in no way a mandate. If individuals wants to be contacted for these services, they will continue be able to do so. This legislation does not prevent accident reports from being sought for other types of legal public records requests, such as those by journalists or insurance agencies associated with those involved in the accident. The legislation also allows solicitors to contact accident victims via postal mail if they wish. The legislation simply bars solicitors from contacting accident victims via phone calls for 30 days if they indicate that is what they want on the accident report.

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor committee, I thank you for your time, and I will be happy to answer any questions at this time.

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