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Vice Chair- Committee on Higher
Education & Workforce Development

Committee on Health

Committee on Energy &
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Committee on Community &
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Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 485
Health Committee
March 7th, 2018

Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Health Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Cody's Law, House Bill 485, to designate January 30th as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Awareness Day.

CTE is a neurodegenerative disease appearing in persons with a history of brain trauma, commonly developing in athletes, military service members, and survivors of domestic violence. According to a study published in The Journal of the American Medical Association in 2017, CTE has been diagnosed in 110 out of 111 former NFL players whose brains were donated for research. While athletes in collision sports may sustain higher numbers of concussive brain injuries, any athlete in any sport who has sustained more than one concussive injury may be at risk for CTE.

This bill is named for Cody Hamblin, a star quarterback at Miamisburg High School, who tragically passed away in May 2016. Cody suffered a seizure and drowned while fishing over Memorial Day weekend. With no history of seizures, his family wanted to find out more. His brain was sent to doctors in Chicago for testing, and it was then discovered that he had Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy.

Cody's Law seeks to raise public awareness on the causes of CTE, the effects on those who suffer from it, and to promote research on the disease. In doing so, Ohioans will be more conscious of this lesser-known disease, and further research efforts can be made to learn more about CTE, and ultimately stop the disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 485. I would be happy to take any questions.