



**Representative Miller's Sponsor Testimony on Behalf of HB 314 Regarding The Establishment of Anti-Prostitution Grant Program before the House Criminal Justice Committee (As Prepared)**

Members of the committee, Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, and Ranking Member Leland. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of HB 413.

For too long we attacked prostitution by increasing fines and penalties. That hasn't worked. It may be part of the solution. It isn't the only part.

Columbus and other communities are coming up with innovative programs like CATCH courts and Johns schools that educate and work to prevent human trafficking and prostitution. These innovative programs need to expand and multiply.

Changing Actions to Change Habits (CATCH) courts work with the prostitute. The supply side. They provide housing and food that many have come to get from their trafficker. Participants get treatment for trauma and addiction. If they complete the course they may be eligible to get their records expunged.

CATCH courts work. We have the numbers. The recidivism rate for women in prostitution nationwide is 80%. That number drops by half for women enrolled in CATCH for any amount of time, and even further to 20% for the women who complete the program.

Johns schools work with the purchasers of sex – the johns - the supply. Participants are taught the impact prostitution has on survivors and on themselves. There are sessions on relationships, counseling, and sexually transmitted diseases. The health and legal consequences of engaging in commercial sex, the negative impact of prostitution on prostituted women, girls and communities are covered. They also aim to help. Schools cover healthy relationships, anger management, sexual addiction pimping and pandering, human trafficking, and the impact of a criminal record. Graduate of the school may be able get their conviction sealed from their record.

We know the direct connection between opioids and prostitution. As we deal with the devastating impact of opioids on Ohio, we also must have to treat one of its worst side affects – prostitution and the lost souls of all those involved. This bill does that through creating a grant program, administered by the Attorney General, to help fund these local programs.

This grant provides funding today, and as we learn more and scale up, we need to increase the size and scope of current programs and give a helping hand to communities that are facing the same challenges of opioids and its increase in prostitution.

I appreciate the committee's time and am happy to answer any questions.