

SENATOR PEGGY LEHNER
6th District



SENATOR NATHAN MANNING
13th District

Sponsor Testimony - Senate Bill 369
Senator Peggy Lehner and Senator Nathan Manning
December 8th, 2020

Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on SB 369, which will revise the eligibility standards and procedure for awarding reparations to victims of crime here in Ohio.

Recently, we learned that several victims of the 2019 Oregon District shooting in Dayton were denied assistance from the Crime Victim Compensation Program¹, which is administered by the Ohio Attorney General's office. One such example was Dion Green. Dion was spending the night in downtown Dayton with his father, Derrick Fudge, in addition to several others. Derrick was murdered that night with Dion sitting next to him, but the state denied assistance to Dion for the burial of his father because his father had a drug conviction from more than nine years prior to his death. In another example, Alayna Young, who was shot in the leg while enjoying a night out with her friends, was denied compensation because a blood test showed she had amphetamines in her system from taking prescription Adderall. Individuals like these, whose lives were dramatically changed through no fault of their own, are whom we seek to help with this bill. This legislation, which I (Senator Lehner) had sponsored two years ago in the 132nd General Assembly as SB 322, will provide clarification, update the laws to increase accessibility to this program, and increase the amount that certain victims can receive. SB 322 also had the support of then-Attorney General Mike DeWine². I will now turn it over to my colleague, Senator Manning, to explain in more detail the provisions of this bill.

SB 369 will expand the definition of a victim to include a family member who either was a witness to a crime or arrived at the crime scene in the immediate aftermath. The definition would also be expanded to immediate family members who are caretakers of a dependent victim of sexual assault. Those who meet the criteria for this new definition will be eligible to receive up to \$15,000 for wages lost due to treatment and counseling. Additionally, this legislation increases the maximum claim that an immediate family member could receive to \$5,000 for counseling. The bill allows a parent or guardian with a criminal history to file a claim on behalf of a

¹ <https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/oregon-district-shooting-survivors-family-denied-state-aid-for-crime-victims/3Z4ZWDCMDZABNJCNNKOALE5KN4/>

² <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/August-2018/AG-DeWine-Announces-Support-of-Measure-to-Reduce-B>

dependent minor victim. Furthermore, the lookback period for criminal disqualification from the compensation program will be reduced from ten years to five years.

This piece of legislation will have a significant impact on providing much needed relief for victims and their families. Thank you for your time. We are happy to answer any questions from the committee.