

I would like to say thank you, “Chair Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.

Hello My name is Dion Green I am here on behalf of SB 369 on victims of crime compensation and to speak on how the the current guidelines affect people and their families while suffering a loss from another person's actions or evil doings. Well I would like to begin with why this topic means so much to me. Because August 4 2019 a young male open fired in a popular bar area killing 9 people and injuring many. That night changed my life forever because while standing beside my father waiting on my sister to catch up with the group. This man walked from the side of the building firing an AR-15 military style gun shooting my father and his sister in front of me and killing others until he was put down.

So the moral of why I am sharing that information with you all is because when it came to filling out paper work to get help from the state to help with the burial expenses. I was denied due to something that happened over nine years ago, but one of the provisions of this bill reduces the look-back period so people aren't punished for things that happened a decade ago. So through all the hell I endured I had to get a letter from the Ohio attorney general office telling me that my dad does not qualify for help. Do you know how kick in the face I felt?

Because my thing is this when we are grieving for our loved one and now we have to figure out how to bury them it was another level of stress added on top of that. In my experience the majority of people that are being denied is people who have less or no money to pay for either burial or counseling. So this bill SB369 is something that will help families out whose loved ones didn't deserve it.

No one should have to pay for someone else's actions due to the mistakes from over a decade ago, his record should not be held accountable for a decision to be eligible for the compensation program. But I pray to God that someone listen to the pain and hurt that we suffer during our grieving process. The denial letter from the Government inspired me to create my own foundation called the FUDGE Foundation and it helps with burial expenses and mental health because for those who cannot receive government assistance.

But thank you for your time and God Bless you all..

Dion Green