To: Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Lily Holderbaum, International Association of Forensic Nurses, Ohio Chapter
Date: October 18/2021
Re: Proponent testimony for S.B. 183

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 183. I am Lily Holderbaum, a Registered Nurse, and Certified Sexual Assault Nurse examiner (SANE-A) as well as Director at Large for Education and Research for the Ohio International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) Chapter.

The Ohio IAFN Chapter supports allowing individuals who have been victims of human trafficking to have the records of their criminal offenses related to their trafficking expunged. A criminal record can severely hinder an individual's ability to obtain employment, housing, financial aid, professional licenses, social services, and most importantly hinders medical follow-up and application for victim compensation. Ohio has made considerable strides in creating laws that protect individuals from being trafficked and acknowledge that individuals who escape this life - are victims. The Ohio IAFN Chapter supports SB183 because it corrects a loophole in current law regarding the eligibility of victims of human trafficking to have their criminal records expunged. Creating access to expungement is necessary to empower patients who disclose human trafficking the opportunity to move past the abuse and criminal activity, which hinders strides towards future enhancements.

As a representation of our forensic nursing team, we recognize barriers to victim compensation due to record expungement access. This Bill allows for all patients/survivors of human trafficking to collect from victim compensation where otherwise they are considered ineligible under the current restrictions that say the victim was committing a criminal act that caused or contributed to their injuries.

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