

# Ohio House of Representatives



## State Representative Brian Lampton District 73

**HB 161 – Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
5 April 2022**

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Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 161, also known as Jacob’s Law. This legislation will create a registry, which would include basic information on individuals who have been convicted of crimes against children. This legislation unanimously passed the House Criminal Justice Committee and passed the House with a vote of 89 to 4. Jacob’s Law will add persons, over the age of 18, who are convicted of “domestic violence” and “permitting child abuse” against a child, under the age of 14, to the violent offender database. This legislation does not contain an appropriation.

Jacob’s Law would add these charges to the Violent Offender Database created through the 132nd General Assembly’s “Sierah’s Law”. Under this bill, anyone may go to their local county Sherriff’s office to run a check on someone entering the family dynamic to see not only convictions for violent offenses, but specifically crimes committed against children

A young boy from Fairborn, Jacob Barker, who was tragically killed in August of 2015 by Justin Payne, inspired this bill. Payne was previously convicted of endangering a child in 2011 after fracturing a baby’s skull, and breaking her ribs and ankle. Jacob’s birth mother was dating Payne at the time her son was killed. Neither she, Jacob’s father, nor the family, knew of Payne’s previous conviction. While even a single child’s death from child abuse is intolerable, these tragedies are far too common. We believe that a child abuse registry would help other families to avoid a similar tragedy. We can do this by giving individuals the ability to take proper precautions and verify the criminal record of those around their children. While some argue these registries do not decrease the rate of these crimes, I implore committee members to ask themselves whether parents should have every tool available to them to protect their children from abusers. By saving even one child through the enactment of Jacob’s Law, we honor Jacob Barker’s life by preventing further tragedy.

Jacob's family has been instrumental in the creation of this bill, and I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude to Tammy Jenkins (Jacob's Grandmother) and the rest of the family for continuing the fight for Jacob. Their efforts to turn this horrible tragedy into a positive impact deserve to be commended. I have worked with the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services and the Ohio Attorney General's Office while redrafting this legislation from previous General Assemblies. We are now confident this bill is ready to be signed into law. It is time to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Jacob's Law. I am happy to answer any questions committee members may have at this time.