



State Representative Tom Young

37th Ohio House District

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I also wanted to discuss a “Delinquent Child” in the context of this legislation. “Delinquent Child” is a term used to describe a minor (a person under the age of 18) who has been adjudicated by a court due to their involvement in a criminal act or delinquent behavior. An adjudication of delinquency is a legal judgement made by a court, usually in the juvenile justice system, when a minor is found to have committed acts that would be considered criminal if committed by an adult.

This legislation is proposing that in civil actions for damages caused by another person’s criminal act, the requirement for the defendant (the person who committed the criminal act) to have been “convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or adjudicated delinquent in connection with the criminal act” means that not only would adults with criminal convictions or guilty pleas be subject to potential civil liability, but minors who have been adjudicated delinquent for their involvement in criminal acts.

In other words, if a minor is found to be delinquent in connection with a criminal act they committed, this legislation allows for civil actions to seek damages against them for the harm caused, just as it does for adults with criminal convictions or guilty pleas. It is worth noting that juvenile justice proceedings are typically distinct from the criminal justice system for adults, and they focus on rehabilitation and treatment rather than punishment, but this legislation is expanding the potential for civil liability in such cases.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation and we would be happy to answer any questions.