

## **29<sup>TH</sup> HOUSE DISTRICT**

PARTS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

INCLUDING: VILLAGES OF CLEVES AND  
NORTH BEND, CITY OF HARRISON, CITY OF  
MT HEALTHY, CITY OF NORTH COLLEGE  
HILL, AND COLERAIN, CROSBY, HARRISON,  
MIAMI, SPRINGFIELD, AND WHITEWATER  
TOWNSHIPS

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FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

HOMELAND SECURITY



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## **State Representative Cindy Abrams Ohio House of Representatives**

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 322.

The goal of House Bill 322 is simple, we all have a duty to protect our children. Representative Seitz and I have had conversations with our constituents from the Westside of Cincinnati, which in part has led the introduction of this bill.

As adults, we have the responsibility to report when we see something happen to children. We have all seen and heard the slogan “see something, say something.” We know when something is wrong, and we must speak up about the wrongdoing.

As a Catholic mother, in order to volunteer and work in my children’s schools, I had to go through what is known as Safe Parish or Virtus, which puts the “see something, say something” into effect. I had to go through a background check, take a two hour in person training, and continue to do monthly or quarterly online trainings to keep my status valid. All of this is an important step to keep the children in the schools safe. While these types of trainings and programs do provide great benefits, there is still more we can do, which is why Representative Seitz, and I are here today.

In the coming weeks, you will hear from individuals that this type of change will benefit as well as other experts for what this means for the State of Ohio. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today. I would now like to turn it over to Representative Seitz to speak further on the bill.