

Good morning, To the house chair and representatives. I am honored today to speak before you and I thank you for being heard.

I have been a police officer for 27 years I have been a captain at the Dalton Police Department for three years now and I am also attached to the US Marshals fugitive task force, and as of lately my main job with a Marshalls service is to find missing and abducted children.

On February 28, 1999 while working with the Wayne County Sheriffs office I was called into work on my day off. I was part of the tactical team and we were needed at the southern end of the county for a man in mental distress.

I was advised by Dispatch to stop by a local address and pick up the distressed males family members and bring them to the location to help talk to this man. Negotiators and family members spoke to the man for roughly 4 hours. The man expressed that he wanted the police to come and kill him. After the intense negotiations, a plan was made to extract him from his vehicle to get him the help he needed, taking care to cause as little harm as necessary.

Upon arriving on scene, the man got out and pointed a gun at me from about 6 feet away, and I was forced to fire the shot that ended this man's life who desperately needed help.

There are many days that when I look back and remember all that people went through as a result of this incident... this man's family, my family and my

colleagues at work, plus many others indirectly connected. Soon after I received a letter from the Sheriff, from the man's mother. She wanted to share with me that she had forgiven me and hoped that I could live my life and move on.

(PAUSE)

I have never moved on. (PAUSE)

I have always felt it didn't need to happen that way. (PAUSE)

I wish I could've done more to help him. This was not war. This was a man in need of help! I still have the letter from his mother and look at it from time to time, yet I still carry his burden, his mothers burden, and my burden 24 year later, wishing there was something good that could have come out of this man's death.

As awful of a story as this is I need to tell it to you so that you may understand the pain that my personal family went through as my name was publically released in the press. I am thankful that this incident did not happen today.

In 1999, my family and loved ones were protected because the speed of news was significantly slower, and the amount of information available to the public was not as readily accessible. Even still after nearly a year of battling in the courts, the Akron Beacon Journal finally won the right to publish my name, affecting my personal safety and the safety of those I love most.

While the publishing of my name cannot be avoided, in the 24/7, online inform-

ation age, personal information such as addresses, emails, and other contact data is at the finger tips of people who seek to do safety forces personnel harm. I, myself, could probably deal with this. I recognize this is the life I signed up for. However, my wife, my sons, and the rest of my family did not. And the current laws do not protect them.

I thank the house chair and all representatives for your time today. I urge you to consider the security this bill can provide to thousands of safety personnel and their families that will be positively impacted by the passing of this bill. Thank you again for your consideration.

I would be happy to answer any questions.