

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): _____

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee
HB 161
Proponent Testimony

Dear House Criminal Justice Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 161 and to provide my testimony in favor of its passage. As an advocate for survivors and a victim of domestic and sexual abuse, I believe that this bill will significantly benefit the residents of Ohio by protecting survivors in our state, and through this, enhancing the safety of the public.

This law would eliminate the 'loophole' that poses special exemptions for sex offenses committed by a spouse. I am moved by the impact this bill could have on victims of domestic violence and abuse, who are often not able to seek justice for the sex crimes committed against them. Sexual violence is no more moral or acceptable when committed against an intimate partner and this bill would correct the law to reflect this.

I know from my experience working with survivors of both sexual and domestic violence how often the most vulnerable among us are trapped in their relationships, with no escape. I myself have been victimized by family violence and know of the horrors that it creates both internally and externally, to experience such a betrayal. Survivors often have no choice but to accept the conditions, or else, be out on the street. House Bill 161 represents a significant opportunity for Ohio to make substantial progress in this area. By supporting this bill, the House Criminal Justice Committee will demonstrate its commitment to the well-being of Ohioans and its dedication to protecting survivors.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of House Bill 161. I urge the members of the Committee to support this legislation and advance it for the benefit of all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Erin Fischer