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Licensed Private Investigator
Proponent for HB 91

House Criminal Justice Committee

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Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown and ALL the Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity and time I have been given to address this committee and all those contemplating and weighing in on House Bill 91. I am a proponent of this legislation which would prohibit a person from knowingly installing a tracking device or application on another person's property without the other person's consent. I believe this legislation is important to protect potential victims of stalking and harassment as well it is another measure to protect the privacy and freedoms which should be afforded to **the average person**.

Today I would like to speak on the language found within HB 91 that references Professional and Licensed Private Investigators being exempt from the prohibition of installing a tracking device without a person's consent.

It is important to understand where I come from prior to being a private investigator. I am a teacher by trade and hold a master's degree in education. I have a passion for children and their well-being along with a great understanding of the difficulties school district's face each year to keep costs low while providing the best education possible. I use my unique background and perspective daily in my career as a private investigator.

If any of you are a parent, particularly a mom, of a child who dances, the term "Dance Mom" may often make you and others cringe, all thanks to the misconceptions portrayed on the "reality" TV show that followed dancers and their moms at various competitions. I am proud to say that for 13 years I have been a Dance Mom, BUT not one of "those" dance moms. The same goes for being a private investigator. When I am asked about my job I say, with bated breath, that I am a Private Investigator. The cringe is inevitable, or the immediate assumption that I follow people around to take pictures and catch them cheating on their significant other is often laughed upon. I am proud to say that I am a Private Investigator, BUT not that type of investigator. This is not an area that my partner or I choose to spend our time. We encourage potential clients to save their money and we turn those types of cases away. And I am not exaggerating when I say we have had people beg us to take their money because they just "need to know" and we maintain our objections to investigating these cases. That said, I am

not a proponent of the amended HB 91 so that I can track individuals to determine if they are a cheating spouse.

Each year school districts in the State of Ohio spend thousands of dollars educating children that are not financially their responsibility, also known as "Out of District Kids". These children's parents attempt to cheat the system by falsifying documents, providing addresses of friends or relatives that will "vouch" for their residency while truly residing elsewhere outside of the district. As a private investigator I use all my skills, from getting down and dirty in people's trash to placing, monitoring, reporting on tracking devices and everything in between in order to provide factual, consistent and thorough information to the school districts as they gather evidence and make their case to the Ohio Board of Education which ultimately rules on which district is financially responsible. Having the ability to investigate these cases with all available resources, including tracking devices, is extremely important to a school district's budget.

As a private investigator I also use my skills to ensure that the time and effort put forth by our justice system is being followed through to keep children and their well-being a priority. With the use of tracking devices, I have investigated family affair cases where court orders are deliberately being violated, putting children at risk. Also, with the use of tracking devices, I have investigated cases that involved registered sex offenders being in areas and around children from which they are prohibited. These children are my passion and as so eloquently stated by President Kennedy, "although children may be victims of fate, they will not be the victims of our neglect." I urge you to support HB 91 as it is amended to allow me as a licensed private investigator to use every tool available to ensure all children do not become victims of a fate that has been determined by the neglect of people that are supposed to protect them, emotionally, physically, and mentally.

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown and members of this committee I would like to thank you again for allowing me to testify on House Bill 91.

At this time, I would be happy to hear from the committee and address any comments, questions or concerns you may have.