

To the members of The Criminal Justice Committee

Hello my name is Mary Nagel; I am a Survivor of Human Trafficking. I was trafficked from the age of 15 through 33. I am not here to express the agony I have gone through over the years; I am here to express the gratitude I now have knowing that my voice is heard. I have been Free of that life since January 26th, 2019.

Today I am a wife, a mother, a daughter, and a loving sister. I am employed at Cardinal Treatment Center, A Substance Abuse Treatment Center located in Portsmouth Ohio, yes, the same town where my abuse all started. My job Title is a Court Liaison/Admissions specialist.

I work with some of the best retired law enforcement there is. Andy Davis, being the one who believed in me when no one else did. I currently cover the same court's that had sentenced me to multiple years incarcerated.

Many law enforcement officers have asked me the question. How do you stay in the Town where all these horrible things have happened to you? My answer is very simple. I don't have to run anymore. I ran for so many years, not just geographically but mentally I stayed under the influence of drugs and alcohol. I developed Stockholm syndrome, to make things appear as if they were okay.

If House Bill 385 was passed I would be eligible to live to my full potential. I have been denied a Qualification of Employment three times by Judge Kuhn, He could not offer any reason to why I was being denied. I fought hard and yes, I did still obtain a CQE, I did not give up. I contacted ODRC to ask why it was being denied, I was told that it was approved and that a letter of recommendation was sent.

I ended up connecting with Roxanne Coey from ODRC after telling her a little of my story, she asked me if I would be interested in speaking for a convention called Building Bridges. I was then sent a CQE from the State of Ohio.

A few examples of past abuse: Not just sexual but also mental abuse I had to endure are as followed.

1) I had to have (Prosecutor) removed from a past case, due to him attempting to force himself on me, yet he was on all of my cases in the past simply because the courts did not believe me, I was looked at as a drug addict, and a whore. I was told that I would be sent to prison to discredit anything I spoke about.

2) I was pregnant with my first child, I was told by a Judge if I was to have an abortion, I would only get Probation. When I declined his offer, I was sent to Prison for Five Years. Michael H. Mearan was the attorney for my case, he is who informed me of this offer over a recorded phone call in the Scioto County Jail. When I asked for the phone call be brought in to court, I was denied and sent for a psychiatric evaluation.

House Bill 385 being passed wouldn't change all the horrible things that has happened over the years however it would give me a sense of peace knowing that I still have a chance to become a Substance Abuse Counselor for Adolescence's, with me the abuse I have gone through, came directly from Attorney's, Judges, Law Enforcement, and even Correctional Officers.

I have never been charged with soliciting, prostitution, or loitering in Ohio but that doesn't mean my abuse wasn't as harmful as others.