

47th House District

Portions of Butler County, including
Hamilton and Fairfield, Ross
Township and portions of Fairfield,
Hanover and St. Clair townships

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 644-6721
(800) 282-0253
(614) 719-0000 (Fax)
Rep47@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov



Sara P. Carruthers Ohio State Representative

Committees

-Finance-
-Finance Subcommittee on Health &
Human Services-
-Transportation-
-Behavioral Health- Homeland Security-

Commissions/Councils/Boards

-Early Childhood Advisory Council-
-Ohio Children's Trust Fund-
-Ohio Arts Council-
-Ohio Holocaust & Genocide Memorial

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 486, known as Aisha's Law. I am proud to work on this important legislation with my joint sponsor, Representative Brent.

On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. This equates to more than 10 million women and men annually. Aisha's Law will make meaningful strides to protect victims of domestic violence and prevent these tragedies from occurring in our state.

Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a significant effect on family members, friends, and co-workers. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, are among those seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life.

Unfortunately, Incidents of domestic violence occurs in every corner of Ohio, and in far greater numbers than are often realized. In 2023, the Ohio Attorney General reported there were a staggering 60,121 domestic violence incident charges in Ohio. This number has **doubled** from the reported DVI charges in 2018.

Butler County, which I represent, had 1,639 DVI charges. The Dove House, Butler County's only domestic violence shelter, reported the number of survivors they see coming through their doors is steadily increasing. We **must** do more to protect our survivors of domestic violence.

I was honored to be asked to join Representative Brent in sponsoring this legislation, as my own mother was abused by her second husband. After their brief marriage ended, he stalked her on her way home from work, pulled up next to her in his car, hit her with a tire iron, threw her in the car, and raped her. She escaped, but her lawyer told her to move to the top floor of the YWCA for her own safety and that of her family.

Imagine not being able to return to your family's home because of someone posing such a large threat to your family.

Thankfully, my mother got out of this dangerous situation and met my father. Far too many individuals, however, continue to be abused and live in fear – constantly looking over their shoulders, worrying about when the next time will be and trying to hide it from the outside world. That is why it is so critical that we pass this legislation, to make Ohio a safer place and to let victims know that we care about them and that there is hope.

Chair Abrams and committee members, thank you for hearing Aisha's Law today. We would be happy to answer any questions.