

Representatives

Cindy Abrams
Willis E. Blackshear, Jr.
Juanita O. Brent
Sara P. Carruthers
Rodney Creech
Steve Demetriou
Thomas Hall
Adam C. Miller
Kevin D. Miller
Ismail Mohamed



Chairman
Haraz N. Ghanbari

Vice-Chairman
Phil Plummer

Ranking Member
Cecil Thomas

HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes | November 15, 2023

Chairman Ghanbari called the committee to order at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Ghanbari calls HB 230 for its 5th hearing. Chairman Ghanbari introduces Representative Abrams to give an explanation for AM_135_1312.

Representative Abrams explains the amendment will add oral fluid swabs to the bill for traffic stops.

Ranking member Thomas states he has not had enough time to read the amendment.

Representative Abrams states the amendment is simple and the fluid swabs are simply for testing. There is already an option to use blood, breath, and urine.

Ranking member Thomas asks if anybody practices this in Ohio.

Representative Abrams states it has to be in law for them to be able to use this testing at all.

Representative Adam Miller states there is concern that the oral fluid swab will be more invasive than other methods and he would like to discuss this amendment with other legal stakeholders.

Representative Abrams states when you renew your drivers license and when you are pulled over you have the option to give consent for the oral fluid swab.

Ranking member Thomas asks if Alabama is the only state who does this testing.

Representative Abrams states she believes there are 25 other states who currently allow it. Alabama is the state that has been using this with the most success.

Ranking member Thomas states it is difficult to decide yay or nay on the amendment because he wants to get into the details of the procedure. These are uncharted waters for law enforcement and the community.

Representative Abrams states drawing blood and urine tests are more invasive compared to the swab test. Regardless of the type of test, if you refuse, you will face the same repercussions.

Representative Adam Miller states he respects Representative Abrams and her honesty however they had short notice to review these amendments. They would like more time to review these with the interested parties.

Representative Abrams states she has done the research and she would not amend the bill unless it was absolute. She is willing to give people the time to vet the amendments over the holiday.

Ranking member Thomas accepts the additional time to review the amendments that she has offered.

Chairman Ghanbari asks if Representative Abrams is willing to withdraw her motion and delay the vote.

Representative Abrams says this is true.

Chairman Ghanbari re-introduces Representative Abrams to give an explanation for Am_135_1313-1.

Representative Abrams explains the amendments will add mandatory education on fentanyl with several options for the education. August will also be fentanyl poisoning awareness month.

Ranking member Thomas states he would like more time to review this amendment as there is a concern how this may affect the school system.

Representative Abrams stated she took this amendment to ODE and she believes this amendment is going to be important to the bill. She is willing to give them more time to review if necessary.

Representative Brent asks about line 62-65 where it discusses abortion related services.

Chairman Ghanbari states this language is current law and it is only the underlined sections that is new law.

Representative Brent asks how this portion relates to fentanyl.

Representative Abrams states she does not know and that would be a question for the Representatives who put that law into place.

Representative Brent states the current law needs to be updated to reflect the change with the passage of Issue 1. This would be currently in conflict with the new constitutional rights.

Representative Adams states he appreciates Representative Abrams for offering extending the time to review the amendments.

Representative Abrams withdraws her motion to amend.

Chairman Ghanbari introduces Minister Blythe Barnow for opponent testimony for HB 230.

Minister Blythe Barnow states she represents HEALTH Ohio and she additionally works in the ministry because of a loss of a loved one to overdose. This experience brought her to consider new alternatives for treatment. She believes HB 230 will impact dense populations in Ohio and the labeling of a fentanyl overdose as poisonings will make the problem worse by causing more prosecutions. The bills homicide by overdose has not been proven to arrest the kingpins, instead it is low-ranking traffickers that are arrested. Ohio is the third in the country for overdose homicide prosecutions and it is also the 5th in the country for overdoses, showing that harsher sentences do not assist. Additionally, fatal overdose is twice as high for those who are given involuntary treatment. The best treatment is easily accessible voluntary treatment. Building prisons is more expensive and uses money that could be granted for harm reduction services and treatment. She states she is in full support for the amendment that would allow more awareness in schools.

Ranking member Thomas asks what places in the country are seeing success with the treatment methods she mentioned.

Blythe Barnow states she can provide those states that have tried but as of now no state has them all.

Chairman Ghanbari directs the members of the committee to read the written testimony and to review the amendments presented by Representative Abrams.

Chairman Ghanbari calls forward HB 13 for its 3rd hearing. There are no parties present, the 3rd hearing is concluded.

Chairman Ghanbari calls forward HB 194 for its 3rd hearing. There are no parties present, the 3rd hearing is concluded.

Chairman Ghanbari concludes committee at 11:39 a.m.

Chairman Ghanbari

Ranking Member Thomas