

**Testimony before the House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee in Support of  
Senate Bills (SBs) 70-76**

November 5, 2019

My name is Miriam Jane-Black O'Shea and I am a member of the Junior League of Birmingham, one of nine Leagues in the state of Michigan. On behalf of the Michigan Junior Leagues, I would like to express my gratitude to the Senate Judiciary Committee Chair and Members for holding a hearing on these bills and for granting me the opportunity to share my own story. It is my hope that it will have an impact on you, as you can provide support to someone who may not be as fortunate as I have been. I had a unique situation in my life through which this bill package, had they been law, would have been so greatly appreciated.

It is difficult to sum up my very long, complex and disturbing case, but I will try to be succinct. In 2002 I was attacked by who I assumed at the time was a home intruder. I fought and negotiated with this man for my life and for whatever reason he changed his mind. He dropped the knotted pantyhose he had pulled out of his coat pocket to strangle me with and ran away leaving me on a bathroom floor bruised and terrified. Three months later my then husband was arrested by the FBI for kidnapping, conspiracy and the assault of a woman he had been having an affair with for several years. She was found on the side of a road in Tennessee beaten, tasered, stabbed three times and clothed only in plastic wrap used for shipping pallets. He was convicted of kidnapping and assault in which the judge stated in sentencing that she believed a brutal sexual assault took place. He was sentenced to 167 months in federal prison.

During this time several horrifying things came out, including the FBI investigating what happened to me when I was attacked. They believe, as do I, that he had arranged for the stranger to be in the house I was attacked in and that he had intended to murder me.

During the kidnapping trial and his incarceration I lived in constant fear that he would find where my son and I lived and that he would try to have me killed again. He did not have my physical address, only a cell phone number and that I lived in metro Detroit. I was fortunate that my family had the means to put everything in their name; leases, utilities, etc. Not all victims have the kind of support system I was so privileged to have had.

I also used a UPS store that had mailboxes for my address so I did not have to use a post office box. When I registered to vote they said they needed my physical address to issue my voters card. I was devastated that one more thing had been taken from me.

I am so happy that you have chosen to consider this bill package today. No one should ever have to choose between safety and their right to be counted, to be heard, to vote. I only wish that I had had someone speaking for me in Lansing at that chaotic time in my life. On behalf of myself and the Michigan Junior Leagues, I ask that you consider how an Address Confidentiality Program could've helped me and how it will help many victims today, and urge you to vote "yes" on the bills before you today. Thank you for your consideration.