

ISAAC "YITZY" SCHLEIFER
FIFTH DISTRICT



Delegate Luke Clippinger
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February 24, 2020

Re: Support for – HB945 - Criminal Procedure - Sentencing and Disposition - Community Impact Statement

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 945: Criminal Procedure - Sentencing and Disposition - Community Impact Statement, which would authorize a representative of a community impacted by a crime of which a defendant, or respondent in juvenile court, has been convicted to submit a certain community impact statement during sentencing or disposition of criminal or juvenile cases. This bill would also require a court to consider certain community impact statements.

I have seen firsthand both as a Councilman and as former Vice-President of my community association, the effects of crime on a community. Fear of being a victim of a crime can negatively affect the growth and development of a neighborhood. Some of these adverse effects on the community can include decreased property values, reduced safety, departure of existing businesses, and avoidance of new businesses.

Community impact statements recognize that the effects of crime can be far-reaching. Sometimes the victim of a crime is more than one person - it is a community. The purpose of a community impact statement is to allow the community the opportunity to explain to the Court and the offender how the crime has affected them. Bringing people together and taking action against crime is necessary for restoring our communities after a crime has occurred.

We need legislation that gives a voice to our community in the courtroom. For this reason, I urge a favorable report for House Bill 945

Sincerely,



Isaac Yitzy Schleifer