

## **RESOLUTION #2**

### **RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF OHIO STATE SENATE BILL 90 (SB90) , A BILL TO MAKE STRANGULATION A FELONY IN OHIO**

**WHEREAS** BPW/Ohio’s Legislation Platform contains as the following language: **VICTIM RIGHTS: Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for all individuals who are victims of violent acts including domestic and/or sexual violence;** and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio State Senate, S.B. 90 was introduced in the Senate on Feb.23, 2021 by Senators Kunze and Antonia and is currently pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee; and

**WHEREAS** S.B. 90 would expand the offense of “domestic violence” to also prohibit knowingly impeding the normal breathing or blood circulation of a family or household member by applying pressure to the throat or neck, or by blocking the nose or mouth, of the family or household member and provides special penalties for violations of this prohibition; and

**WHEREAS** S.B. 90, as introduced would make strangulation a third-degree felony upgrading the offense from its current classification as a misdemeanor; and

**WHEREAS**, During the three (3) public hearings testimony in support of passage of S.B. 90 was offered by the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, the Ohio Prosecuting Attorney’s Association, several Law Enforcement as well as Domestic Violence and Rape Prevention Centers and/or survivors; and

**WHEREAS** Studies and hearing testimony has demonstrated that being strangled for just seconds can increase the risk of strokes and seizures and can cause permanent injuries and death; and

**WHEREAS** S.B. 90 is the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) proposal to create a felony offense for strangulation in Ohio as similar bills were introduced in 2015, 2017 and 2019, however each time the Ohio legislative session expired before the bills were voted on by both chambers; and

**WHEREAS** Ohio is one of only two (2) states in the United States that does not recognize strangulation as a felony; and

**WHEREAS** passage of SB 90 would provide additional protections for survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence and also create an additional charge or penalty for perpetrators of violence,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that BPW/OHIO supports passage of S.B. 90 by the Ohio Legislature.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 Ohio BPW Legislation Chairs shall organize and implement a mechanism to assist the membership in a letter writing campaign to their State Senators to request that S.B. 90 be voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote and passage by the full Senate.

**FURTHER IT IS RESOLVED**, that after S.B. 90 is passed by the Ohio State Senate that Ohio BPW Legislation Chairs co-ordinate letter writing campaigns by the membership to seek passage of similar legislation in the Ohio House of Representation.