

DETECTIVE STEWART KOZAK, YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

REMARKS: 2/24/10

First, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today in support of House Bills 1957 and 1958.

My name is Stu Kozak, I am currently a detective in the York County District Attorney's Office. I have 33 years experience in the field of law enforcement, and am currently working with a concentration in domestic violence. Based on my years of experience I have recognized a need to protective victims beyond the use of Protection From Abuse Orders. Peace Orders would provide this much need protection.

There are many victims that do not qualify for protect under the Protection From Abuse statute. Ex. A victim of sexual assault who doesn't want to proceed with the rigors of sexual assault prosecution, but would like the alleged perpetrator to stay away from her.

The goal should be to have victims feel as if they can turn to law enforcement for help with making them feel safe. Right now, there are people who are afraid, who are turned away by law enforcement because they do not fit into categories that currently afford protection to victims under the law. That needs to change. This legislation is yet another step toward achieving the ultimate goal of victim safety.

The GPS bill is something that will give the courts a tool to help ensure the safety of victims. The use of GPS is not necessary, but it would nice to have it in the arsenal of the courts to ensure the safety of victims.