

Mr Chairman, members of the committee and all who are in attendance today.

My name is Keith Green and I am a resident of Wheaton in Montgomery county Md and I support HB233 and call for it to become law for this reason.

On July 21st 2019 while working as a guard at the basilica of the national shrine of the immaculate conception in Washington dc, I was nearly attacked on the job by a young man named Ishmael Henley who I later found out was released on bail on July 17th 2019 four days earlier on a Domestic Violence charges of assault one, Assault two and reckless endangerment of a minor his own son.

In his case file which I have here states that he punched, kicked and choked his estranged wife Vanessa Henley in her Germantown Maryland home as their small children watched in horror. This man has had previous domestic charges dating back as far as February 2016 but was able to beat the charges due to technicalities including spousal privilege. without the domestic violence laws being strong enough with having strangulation on the books to punish repeat abusers it would would keep people like Ishmael Henley out in the streets and not behind bars where he belongs and would have prevented me from being nearly attacked while working security.

He has an upcoming trial in march that will decide his fate and hopefully hold him accountable for his crimes against his wife.

In the statement given by Vanessa Henley

Ishmael Henley's estranged wife states:

"On Thursday 5/16/19 my husband Ishmael Henley began tell me what to do as usual, he told me to put our girls to bed. As I proceeded to so my son followed me. I then asked Ishmael if he could please watch our son while I dealt with the girls. He then became angry and hostile because he didn't want to watch our son. We began arguing back and forth then it escalated to yelling. Then he began throwing objects at me like our laundry detergent, then pushing me to the floor kicking me, punching me. I eventually got up and grabbed my girls to put them in their room so they wouldn't continue to witness the abuse. As I'm walking to their room, he then pushes me while holding our son causing us to fall. My son bumping his head on the door frame of my daughters' room. As I started to get up to grab my son, he then grabbed me by my neck and pinned me to the wall just holding me by my neck, strangling me until I lost consciousness. When I got back to my senses from passing out, I screamed for him to get out and he did"

Vanessa Henley

Wife of Ishmael Henley

This is just one of many cases around our state that require legislative intervention and better judges to keep men like Ishmael from being allowed to reoffend or worse attack co-workers due to him stressing over fears of serving time in jail for his crimes.

I consider situations like this to be a public crisis for Marylanders that our wives, sisters, aunts, mothers could fall victim to because the laws are not strong enough to protect them.

Domestic violence Transends all cultures, racial demographics and socio-economic status to where the cost of doing nothing will cause many women to be traumatized and suffer from PTSD, depression and other forms of mental illness. This hits me personally as my own wife was in a abusive relationship years before she met me while living in her hometown of Bradenton Florida in Manatee County, Andres Collazos did everything he could to break her and he was nearly successful in doing so if she didn't get away from his abuse when she did, unfortunately the woman who dated him after my wife Jazmin Catano was not so lucky and was murdered in 2013 in her home after she ended the relationship Callazos.

after the murder, he fled the country to Colombia and was a fugitive from justice for nearly 4 years until his capture in July 2017 in Venezuela and was extradited back to the United States to face charges for murder in march of 2019.

According to the Bradenton Herald article dated March 28, 2019 by columnist Jessica De Leon

“Jazmin Catano had just started moving into her new Bradenton apartment on June 22, 2013, in an effort to get away from her recent ex-boyfriend with whom she had shared a home. But her ex-boyfriend, Andres Collazos, may not have been willing to let her go.

That day, a Saturday, Catano’s new neighbor at her Coral Club apartment in the 5900 block of 30th Street West saw a Hispanic man trying to force open Catano’s sliding glass door as he begged or whined in Spanish, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.

Hours later, Catano’s ex-husband arrived at the apartment to drop off their son and daughter, but she didn’t answer the door. Concerned, he went inside and walked into a bloody crime scene, immediately leaving and calling 911.

The trail of blood led from the living room and hallway of the apartment into the bathroom, where Catano was found. She had been bludgeoned and then shot in the back before being dragged into the bathroom, detectives believe.

A bloody fingerprint on the inside door of the bathroom would later be identified as belonging to Collazos’ right ring finger.

But within 11 hours of that crime scene being found, a flight with Collazos on board had departed from Fort Lauderdale International Airport and was headed to his native Medellin, Colombia.

On Thursday — nearly six years later — Collazos made his first appearance before a Manatee County judge to face a murder charge in Catano’s death after being extradited back to Manatee County.

Collazos, 30, arrived at the Manatee County jail on Wednesday after being escorted back by U.S. Marshals from Bogota, Colombia. He was charged with second-degree murder with a firearm.

He was ordered held without bond by Manatee County Court Judge Robert Farrance until the matter can be heard before the presiding judge in the case. But it appears that a grand jury might be convened in an attempt to indict Collazos on first-degree murder, based on statements made by a public defender who said she had spoken with prosecutors assigned to the case.

For the Catano family, Collazos being back in Manatee County makes them feel like they are closer in the pursuit of justice.”

As legislators, to protect Marylanders like myself from unspeakable crimes as you were elected by the voters, I ask as one of those Marylanders that this committee supports and brings HB233 for a full vote in the house and senate and have the Governor sign into law so that crimes like Andres Collazos and Ishmael Henley have committed can be better prosecuted and that no other woman has to worry about living in fear and that another child doesn’t loose a mother to domestic violence.