

[The gentlelady from Ohio is recognized.]

Thank you, Chair Jordan and Ranking Member Raskin, for holding this hearing today.

Today, I'd like to ask for your support for a bill I plan to reintroduce to close a loophole that allows companies to use the "Texas Two-Step".

For far too long, greedy corporations have used shady bankruptcy tactics like the Texas Two-Step to avoid compensating innocent Americans they have hurt. By using this tactic, corporations facing a large number of injury liability lawsuits move their corporate entities to execute a "divisive merger." This splits the corporation into two companies, with the parent company taking all of the assets, and the new company taking all of the liability and the responsibility to pay the victims. The new company then files for bankruptcy, forcing plaintiffs to spend years trying to receive

the compensation they deserve, while the parent company continues business as usual.

Companies that have attempted this maneuver include Johnson & Johnson, which is facing class action lawsuits over claims that its talcum powder causes cancer, and Georgia Pacific, which is facing lawsuits over asbestos exposure. When I came to Congress, I promised my constituents I would fight for them, not for billionaires or large corporations.

That is why last Congress, I introduced the *Ending Corporate Bankruptcy Abuse Act* alongside my colleague Rep. Lance Gooden of Texas to address this very issue.

My bill, which has bicameral and bipartisan support, would deter corporations from abusing bankruptcy protections, and ensure that injury victims can get their day in court. I hope to continue to work with your offices to raise awareness of this

issue, hold companies accountable, and put an end to this harmful practice.

Mr. Chairman, I've worked for two bankruptcy judges as a judicial assistant and as a law clerk. And one thing that was quite apparant with virtually every single debtor that was in bankruptcy was in medical debt. It was either what led them to bankruptcy or exacerbated their financial situation and I look forward to working with members of this committee as well as all of congress to ensure that the bankruptcy code works for the honest yet unfortunate debtor and not just for large corporations.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to discuss my bill, the *Law Enforcement Scenario-Based Training for Safety and De-escalation Act*, which I am proud to lead with Reps. Don Bacon, Brian Fitzpatrick, and Glenn Ivey.

This is an important issue for my community in Akron and Canton as we mourn the loss of Jayland Walker, who was killed by police three years ago, and Frank Tyson, who died while in police custody one year ago. We must work to improve relationships between law enforcement and the community members that they are sworn to protect in order to restore trust and safety. By investing in real-world, scenario-based training, we can give our law enforcement the de-escalation skills they need to keep themselves and our communities safe. This training can help officers develop the situational awareness to handle complex, high-stakes situations such as encountering individuals suffering from mental illness, suicidal crises, or domestic violence, and equips them with greater cultural and situational sensitivity. It has been shown that training officers with these skills results in fewer injuries, deaths, and excessive use of force

incidents for officers and civilians. Importantly, this bill is budget neutral and allows smaller communities who may not have the means to pay for such a training to do so, but it also has garnered widespread support from stakeholders like the Fraternal Order of Police and the Akron Branch of the NAACP. After the shooting deaths of both Jayland and Frank both communities asked what could be done to deescalate tense interventions between law enforcement and citizens that they protect and serve. I am proud to deliver this truly appropriate and timely bill and I urge its passage. Our communities and our law enforcement members are asking for this. It is a common-sense bipartisan bill and I look forward to taking any questions you may have.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.