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The Honorable Nathan Manning
Chairman, House Criminal Justice Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Manning,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter in support of House Bill 96, legislation sponsored by Representative Hughes, which seeks to increase the penalty for sexual imposition for serial offenders.

This bill is a result of recent cases where offenders have repeatedly touched or groped citizens against their will. In one such case, the offender was recently arrested for a 10th time on charges of groping women in public. Under current law, the most jail time the offender can receive is up to 180 days. Under HB 96, an offender who is charged with sexual imposition on a third conviction and any subsequent convictions would be charged with an unclassified misdemeanor of the first degree and could be sentenced up to 365 days in jail for each conviction.

Protecting Ohio citizens and families is the most important job we have in state government, and I encourage passage of HB 96. Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to address this important issue.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General