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The Honorable Marlene Anielski
Chair, State and Local Government Committee
77 South High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Anielski,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter in support of Senate Bill 37, legislation to mandate training for new chiefs of police in Ohio.

Over the past few years, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission has worked diligently with the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) to develop quality training for new chiefs – training on many of the different responsibilities a chief has, from public records laws and statutorily mandated responsibilities to recruitment and budgeting.

While our office would like to see the definition of “newly appointed chief of police” expanded to include more types of police chiefs (for example, constables, university chiefs, and hospital police chiefs) and administrative personnel who may function in a similar role to a police chief, Senate Bill 37 is a great first step in helping to ensure that future police chiefs receive the best possible training to prepare them to be both a steward of the public trust and a leader of peace officers.

It has been my pleasure to see first-hand the hard work of the Commission and the OACP in developing this training, and I look forward to seeing that hard work pay off in the form of this bill. Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 37.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General