

Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn

President, Buckeye State Sheriff's Association

Senate Judiciary Committee, March 14, 2017

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I am Mark Wasylyshyn, Wood County Sheriff and President of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about Senate Bill 67.

I believe in the power of knowledge. Just like with our sex offender registry, we make the information very accessible to those who live, work or go to school near a convicted sex offender.

In my 27 years of experience in law enforcement I have seen those convicted of violent offences re commit violent offences. SB 67 would allow us to know who has those violent tendencies with the hope we could protect our communities.

Many people do not realize that sheriffs and other local law enforcement have no registry or data base to know where felons live in their counties. The Buckeye State Sheriffs Association believes a violent offender registry would be especially helpful to law enforcement to react promptly and with more information when crimes are committed or suspected.

The Buckeye State Sheriff's Association just voted this morning to support SB 67 with just two amendments 1) to have the county Sheriff conduct the registration like we do the sex offenders and arsonists 2) to have funding to offset some of our costs associated with registering and verifying residences etc.

The members of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association would like to thank Senator Gardner and Senator Hite along with Attorney General DeWine for meeting with us numerous times to discuss this bill. We appreciate being involved with the bill from its infancy.

We stand ready to work with this committee and other legislators to enact a violent offender registry for Ohio that can help make our state and its citizens safer.

