

**Proponent Testimony of the Frank Bova the Chief community and safety officer for Cuyahoga County
Regarding House Bill 38**

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 38.

This is my 32nd year in law enforcement in the State of Ohio. I began my law enforcement career with the City of Cleveland and I am proud to say I was a third generation Cleveland police officer, along with my father and grandfather, I completed sixteen years with the Cleveland Police Department. I then became Chief of Police in the City of Warrensville Heights a south eastern suburb of Cleveland, I spent ten years as the Chief. I then became Sheriff of Cuyahoga County twice once as interim and the second time as Sheriff. I am now the Chief community and safety officer of Cuyahoga County.

Over my career I have had the honor of working alongside and with many officers and first responders from around the State of Ohio, and unfortunately have known officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice. First responders in the State of Ohio are our front line of defense. They embody the good in all of us. This is why I fully support House Bill 38. The protection of all first responders and military members hopefully sends a clear message that the safety of the first responders is one of our highest priorities.

Expanding the offense and raising it from a Felony 2 to Felony 1 with mandatory sentencing of three to 11 years served consecutively will hopefully help twofold in deterring the perpetrator from targeting the first responder in the first place and two allowing the first responders the peace of mind that if targeted the fullest extent of the law will be used against the suspect.

Law enforcement officers, first responders and our military members while performing their duties should be protected from being the targets and have the peace of mind to know the legislators and citizens are protecting them, this bill assists in adding another layer of protection. With threats apparently escalating around our country against the protectors of our society it is with great pride that I support House Bill 38.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today.