



## Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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House Bill 85  
Written Proponent Testimony  
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Chairman Lang, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 85, a bill to help counties defray the costs of certain capital cases.

The death penalty is an important aspect of the criminal justice system in Ohio. It is an expression of society's moral outrage at the worst of the worst offenders and is an effective deterrent to the commission of heinous crimes. That deterrent is most effective when the death penalty can be applied without regard to geography. A heinous crime is a heinous crime in rural Ohio as much as it is in urban Ohio. Simply put, county finances should not prevent the prosecution of a capital case. Nor should the decision to prosecute a capital case place a county's finances in disarray. Cost should not be a consideration when meting out punishment for Ohio's most heinous crimes, securing justice for victims, and protecting the public from future crime. House Bill 85 protects against this and will help ensure equal application of the law of Ohio.

We would like to thank the bill sponsors, Representatives Wilkin and Rogers, for their efforts on this bill and for the willingness to work through a variety of issues to arrive at the bill the committee has before it today.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 85.