



Proponent Testimony – Molly Gauntner

HB 299 – House Criminal Justice Committee

November 23, 2019

Chairman Lang, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of House Bill 299. My name is Molly Gauntner. I am the President of the Ohio Chief Probation Officers' Association.

The Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association (OCPOA) is a non-profit organization that works to maximize the impact of probation through training, networking, and advocacy. Since 1984, we have been providing these services for publicly employed chief administrators of probation services and community control services agencies operated by the courts in the State of Ohio. We believe that probation is an effective and fiscally responsible alternative to incarceration and we strive to advocate for policies that improve operations and effectiveness of all probation services and programs.

House Bill 299 makes much needed updates to help protect those who spend their careers working to protect others. It increases the penalties for aggravated murder, attempted murder and targeted felonious assault carried out against off-duty corrections officers, parole officers, probation officers, and parole board members. Public servants in this line of work take on a personal safety risk every day. House Bill 299 helps keep them safe and increases the penalties if they do become a victim of a targeted crime.

On behalf of the association, I ask that you vote in support of House Bill 299 and help provide additional protection to those who work daily to keep our prisons and communities safe.