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Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and Members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 169.

Put very simply, this bill will put in place measures to curtail illegal immigration in our state. If a political subdivision becomes a sanctuary for illegal immigrants – that is, if they in any way do not cooperate with the federal government on immigration, they will lose state funding. As well, the bill provides redress for a victim of a crime committed by an illegal immigrants in order to remove public officials who voted for their political subdivision to become a sanctuary.

This is very much a real problem in Ohio. Last year, the City of Dayton School Board voted to become a sanctuary school district. They took a vote on a resolution which plainly states they shall not cooperate with federal authorities on immigration matters. Becoming a sanctuary for illegal immigrants incentivizes the behavior, something certainly we should be able to all agree on, despite perhaps disagreements on border security or what to do with illegal immigrants currently present in our state.

My parents obtained a green card – the legal vehicle for permanent entry into the United States, and legally immigrated to the United States on February 25, 1978. They followed the legal process and became naturalized as citizens on March 1, 1984. They followed the law. Those who do not undermine the process that so many wait years to go through. Our nation and state is full of diverse people who came to the United States, legally. For any political subdivision to undermine those who followed the law is unacceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 169. I'd be happy to answer any questions.