



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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Testimony on House Bill 431

House Criminal Justice Committee

February 26, 2020

Chairman Lang, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Weinman; I am a retired Columbus police officer who now serves as the director of government affairs for the FOP. I am here today to give proponent testimony on House Bill 431 on behalf of our 26,000 members.

HB 431 creates a database that will allow officers to address the demand side of human trafficking. Ohio has been ground zero in the fight against human trafficking, and the ability to effectively track and take enforcement action against those who exploit Ohio's trafficking victims would be extremely beneficial to law enforcement, policymakers, and social service providers. By targeting the demand, and holding these johns and pimps accountable, the FOP feels it will be a tool to reduce human trafficking dramatically.

Again, the FOP of Ohio supports HB 431. Removing the anonymity and pulling back the curtain on the johns and pimps will hold accountable those who exploit the vulnerable. Therefore, the FOP respectfully requests the favorable reporting of HB 431.

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