



**Ohio House of Representatives
Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Written Proponent Testimony
June 18, 2019**

Chairman Green, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony for House Bill 236.

UC Health is an integrated academic health system serving the Greater Cincinnati region. In partnership with the University of Cincinnati, UC Health combines clinical expertise and compassion with research and teaching – offering patients options for even the most complex situations. The UC Health footprint includes:

- University of Cincinnati Medical Center
- West Chester Hospital
- Daniel Drake Center for Post-Acute Care
- Bridgeway Pointe Assisted Living
- Lindner Center of HOPE
- Several specialized institutes including: UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute; UC Cancer Institute; UC Heart, Lung & Vascular Institute; and UC Diabetes & Metabolic Disease Institute.

Given the expansive footprint of our enterprise, we maintain and provide the security and policing needs at our campuses across the Greater Cincinnati area. Our UC Health Public Safety Department is a hybrid police department operating with both police and security officers. When fully staffed we will employ approximately 70 state certified hospital based police officers and 80 public safety (security) officers.

As the UC Medical Center is the only Level 1 trauma center in the region, we receive all of the serious trauma incidents which include almost all of the violent assaults that occur. In addition, we operate the only psychiatric emergency service in the region, and we are the receiving hospital for anyone under federal protection, i.e. the President of the United States and others. We routinely work with the Secret Service, Capital Police and the FBI to ensure adequate protection should hospitalization become necessary for one of their principals when in our City.

The incidents of crime on our hospital campus is increasing and, as recent as 2017, we were the site of an active shooter. Our police detectives conduct numerous felony and misdemeanor investigations ranging from all types of crimes of potential violence, fraud and theft to reports of sexual assault. It is routine for our officers to be involved in arrests of individuals found violating the law and/or creating unsafe situations.

We appreciate Representative Smith for introducing House Bill 236 as it will include our hospital-based police officers in the definition of a “peace officer” for the purposes of Ohio assault statutes. Every day we provide the most complex clinical care to our most vulnerable patients, and our police and security officers go above and beyond to ensure they, and our associates providing the care, receive that care in the safest environment possible. House Bill 236 enhances our ability to provide a safe and healing environment as it ensures that we have a mechanism for protecting our police and security officers who are assaulted in the course of their work.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 236.

Sincerely,
Alan Jones, Chief of Police
Divisional Director of Public Safety
UC Health, Cincinnati, Ohio