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LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Larry O. Elliott,

49535 Katherine Drive, St. Clairsville Ohio 43950

Testimony regarding S.B. 147

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Minority Maharath and members of the Local Government , Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee . Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer proponent testimony of Senate Bill 147.

My name is Larry Elliott. I've had the opportunity to devote my professional career as an educator serving in roles as a teacher, counselor and school superintendent.

In my capacity as school superintendent I had the good fortune to meet Senator Hoagland while developing safety protocols for my district. At that time schools around the country were struggling to provide security for students, teachers, parents and community members in the wake of the Sandy Hook shootings.

While working with Senator Hoagland who worked tirelessly in helping assist my district's safety and security team develop adequate plans for my schools and others schools around Ohio. Senator Hoagland impressed me as having a passion and commitment to keep students safe and secure in their schools.

This passion and ability to problem solve lead Senator Hoagland to be a presenter and resource at a conference at Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), the professional organization for school superintendents in Ohio.

With Senator Hoagland's background in school safety planning and responses along with his experience of providing security services at private and public institutions worldwide, he was able to identify weaknesses in many existing school plans.

Further, I've had the opportunity to discuss school security weaknesses with the Senator on numerous occasions.

A few common lissues we both identified were the response protocols and operational standards of varying degrees in Ohio schools.

The adoption of S.B. 147 will address short comings and provide for a degree of uniform quality review being available to Ohio school districts in my opinion.

The Ohio School Marshall Program will:

- Assist in the development and review of security plans and response protocols,
- Assist in the development of communications with stakeholders involved with the schools on all levels, Federal, state and local law enforcement,
- Mandate that emergency drills and test be conducted in a uniform and timely manner,
- That school emergency response plans be made available for access and review by Ohio School Marshalls.

In closing, it is my firm belief the adoption of a School Marshall Program, Senate Bill 147, in Ohio will bring with it a high level of standards, up to date resources and best practices for school safety and security that school administrators and Boards of Education may utilize in Ohio schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.