



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Testimony in Support of HB 4

Chief Heinz von Eckartsberg, representing the OACP

Good afternoon Chair Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson, and members of the Criminal Justice committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police today in support of HB 4.

As you know, HB 4 would restore the penalties specified under the law for the possession of cocaine that were in place before the recent Ohio Supreme Court's recent opinion in *State v. Gonzales* (Slip Opinion 2016-Ohio-8319).

This bill will help restore the ability of Ohio law enforcement to appropriately charge suspects who possess or traffic in cocaine based upon the law's tiered framework for increasing amounts of cocaine involved. The bill will also restore the deterrent effect of the original statute by providing increased penalties for dealers and traffickers based upon the amount of cocaine found in their possession.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police hopes the committee and the Ohio General Assembly will take action to quickly restore the penalty framework for cocaine possession in the Ohio Revised Code through this bill.

Thank you for your consideration and for allowing me to speak today. I welcome any questions that the committee may have.