



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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House Bill 282 – Criminal Mischief
Interested Party Testimony - Written
November 28, 2017

Chairman Dever, Vice Chair Sprague, Ranking Member Smith and members of the House Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as an interested party on House Bill 282, a bill that would expressly prohibit criminal mischief relating to residential rental property.

I understand that there have been some questions about whether the bill will lead to prosecutors charging people with criminal mischief for trivial matters. We have two observations about this that we wanted to provide to the committee. First, it seems likely that a prosecutor could charge a person with criminal mischief for defacing, damaging, destroying, or improperly tampering with rental property under the current statute. Second, given that charges could likely be brought under current law, we think it unlikely that the bill will lead to prosecutors to now charging people with criminal mischief for trivial matters.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 282.