

Testimony In Support of Amended HB 405

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Legislative Committee Chair, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

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Chairman Bacon, Vice-Chair Dolan and ranking member Thomas, thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police in support of Amended House Bill 405 to incorporate “Counterfeiting” into Ohio Revised Code chapter 2913.30.

My name is Heinz von Eckartsberg and I currently serve as the Chief of Police for the Dublin Police Department, and as the Legislative Committee Chair for the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, representing over 450 active members across our great State.

The United States Secret Service has historically partnered with local law enforcement agencies to fight counterfeiting in Ohio. Amended House Bill 405 will make it easier for local law enforcement agencies to pursue counterfeiting charges against those who are perpetrating such crimes by incorporating a section of Ohio law that specifically addresses these crimes. By passing this legislation, agencies across Ohio will benefit by being able to simplify local charges and pursue individuals or groups that engage in ongoing corrupt criminal enterprises more effectively.

Counterfeiting has been a decades old crime that preys on victims of all types. Whether it is a business that is simply trying to keep their doors open to provide local services, or a private citizen caught up in possessing fake bills unknowingly, counterfeiting crimes are serious. Periodically, many communities across Ohio have seen this type of financial crime occur in their jurisdictions. With the rise of drug use, counterfeiting also seems to have risen. In addition, today’s technology has made the crime of counterfeiting easier to accomplish. Where the counterfeiters once had to have unique skills and the job to create bills was tedious and difficult, now all that is needed many times is a color copier, a Photoshop program and an ink jet printer. Bills created in this manner, if not all collected simultaneously, are spread throughout the economy quickly at small businesses. This makes it harder and harder to protect our communities from such schemes. Each time a fake bill is passed, the number of victims increases.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police offers our strong support of Amended House Bill 405.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and please let me know if you have any questions.