



Montgomery County  
Association of Police Chiefs, Inc

May 21, 2018

132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2017-2018

Support of House Bill 405

(to amend section 2923.31 and to enact section 2913.30 of the Revised Code)

My name is Ronald L. Hess and I am currently the Police Chief of Miami Township (Montgomery County) and serve as President of the Montgomery County Association of Police Chiefs, representing all the Chiefs of our county. I would like to submit my testimony in support of House Bill 405.

First and foremost, I would like thank you for the opportunity to submit my strong support of House Bill 405 to incorporate "Counterfeiting" into Ohio Revised Code chapter 2913.30 on behalf of the Montgomery County Association of Police Chiefs as well as the Miami Township Police Department.

The battle to fight counterfeiting has historically been a cooperative effort between local law enforcement and the United States Secret Service. We at Miami Township have a very large retail base and statues such as counterfeiting have been lacking in the Ohio Revised Code. House Bill 405 will make it easier and more effective for local law enforcement agencies to pursue counterfeiting charges against those who are committing these crimes without needing the assistance of the United States Secret Service. By passing this legislation, departments within the State of Ohio will benefit by being able to present local charges through their county prosecutors and pursue criminal enterprises more effectively.

The act of counterfeiting has been a crime of the ages committed by individuals and organizations that victimize on people and business of all types. Whether it is a small local business that is simply trying to keep their doors open to their community, or a citizen caught up in possessing fraudulent bills unknowingly, counterfeiting crimes is a very serious issue. With the advancement of technology and the low cost of high resolution printers and quality paper, counterfeiting is on the rise. These fake bills are spreading rapidly into the local economy and currently without the assistance of the United States Secret Service, local agencies are limited to what law are available to combat this epidemic.

Our agencies work hand in hand with the Unites States Secret Service to fight this issue, but we are handcuffed with out of date laws in regards to counterfeiting. Each time a fake bill passes through, the number of victims increases and our communities suffer.

The Montgomery County Association of Police Chiefs strongly supports House Bill 405.

Again, thank you for accepting my testimony and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hess', written over a horizontal line.

Ronald L. Hess  
Chief of Police  
Miami Township