

The Supreme Court of Ohio

CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUSTICE MAUREEN O'CONNOR

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Senator Matt Dolan
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Senate Building
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Chairman Dolan:

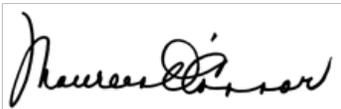
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 5. I am writing to commend the bill's sponsors for their commitment to a fundamental principle of our criminal justice system: a defendant's right to competent and effective counsel.

Such a commitment not only benefits the accused, but also the criminal justice system as a whole by ensuring Ohioans can have confidence in the outcomes of its proceedings. By aiding lawyers who make the decision to serve as public defenders in areas where those services are greatly needed, House Bill 5 works to ensure a fair, just, and dependable result for all.

Ohio's Rules for the Government of the Bar prescribe that all lawyers should aspire to represent their clients "in a manner consistent with the proper functioning of a fair, efficient, and humane system of justice." House Bill 5 will provide support for a large number of attorneys to do exactly that.

I thank you again for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 5 and the principles of fairness it furthers.

Warm Regards,



Maureen O'Connor
Chief Justice