



**Civil Justice Committee**  
**House Bill 332 Sponsor Testimony**  
**Representatives Thomas West & Sedrick Denson**  
**Regards Qualified Immunity for Peace Officers:**  
**Indemnification**  
**November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Thank you Chair Hillyer, Vice-Chair Grendall, Ranking Member Galonski, and all members of the Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding House Bill 332.

House Bill 332 establishes that qualified immunity does not apply in civil actions against peace officers employed by a political subdivision who deprive an individual of rights. It is essential we hold all officers accountable for the violation of an Ohioan's rights while serving their community. It is the duty of peace officers to serve and protect their community; therefore, when they fail to do so and violate constitutional rights, there must be civil liability.

It is our peace officer's duty to enforce the law for all Ohioans, themselves included. It is not beneficial to our communities or other peace officers to not hold them accountable for damages resulting in injury, death, or loss to a person or for injunctive relief or any other appropriate relief. We cannot allow our officers to make fundamental mistakes at the cost of our civilians and not be held responsible for making amends and facing repercussions.

This bill will prevent other peace officers from repeating the same mistakes by invoking a standard. We hold our police officers to the same accountability when they violate clearly established law. If an officer's job is uphold peace, invoking injury by depriving constitutional rights cannot be tolerated or accepted. This bill will serve as a reminder to all officers that they will be held accountable for their actions when violate Ohioan's rights.

It is critical that we take action to do whatever necessary to ensure the safety and wellness of all Ohioans, so we urge that you pass H.B. 332. Thank you again for your time, and I am are happy to answer any questions.