

The Supreme Court of Ohio

CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUSTICE MAUREEN O'CONNOR

65 SOUTH FRONT STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-3431

March 25, 2021

Representative Jeff LaRe
Ohio House of Representatives
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman LaRe:

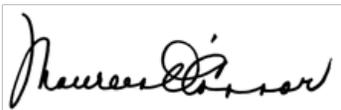
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 150. I am writing to commend the bill's sponsors for their commitment to a fundamental principle of our criminal justice system: a defendant's right to competent and effective counsel.

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 150 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 150 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 150 and the principles of fairness it furthers.

Warm Regards,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Maureen O'Connor".

Maureen O'Connor
Chief Justice