



State Representative Brian Stewart (OH-78) &
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Joint-Sponsor Testimony, House Bill 511

May 25th, 2022

Rep. Stewart: Good afternoon Chairman LaRe, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Leland, and all of the other members on the Criminal Justice Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony in favor of House Bill 511, which will require the electronic recordings of parole board hearings and make recording requestable.

Currently, Ohio parole board is not required in any capacity to record parole hearings. As of 2019, of which is the most current data, 21,832 Ohioans were under parole, and 222,292 under probation¹. With so many parolees, it puzzling how eight people on the parole board can hold hearings without a recording of it anywhere. H.B. 511 would fix this and allow any party, person, or entity including the inmate who is the subject of said hearing to request the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to provide an electronic recording. Additionally, if the party, person, or entity wishes to have a recording transcribed, can do so at their own expense².

It is also important to mention that the electronic recordings of parole hearings will not include the name, date of birth, home or work address, social security

¹ Ben. (2021, October 20). *Ohio 2019*. National Institute of Corrections. Retrieved 2022, from <https://nicic.gov/state-statistics/2019/ohio-2019#:~:text=The%20Community%20Corrections%20System,probation%20and%2021%2C832%20under%20parole.>

² *House Bill 511 - 134th General Assembly*. The Ohio House of Representatives. (2021). Retrieved 2022, from https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/hb598/IN/00/hb598_00_IN?format=pdf

number, age, telephone number, electronic mail address, and any other information that is likely to identify the victim or the victim's immediate family.

I want to thank the co-sponsors of this legislation, including multiple members of this committee, and I want to thank the Ohio Justice Policy Center for their close work in developing and close consultation with this bill. Thank you again for your time and consideration, and I will now attempt to answer any questions you may have.
