



**House Criminal Justice Committee
HB 462 Written Proponent Testimony
Ohio Association of School Business Officials
Ohio School Boards Association
November 29, 2022**

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill (HB) 462. Collectively, we represent public school board members, superintendents, treasurers/CFOs and other school business officials from around the state.

In recent months, schools across the country have become victims of “swatting,” with fake emergency calls creating panic and confusion in communities. In September alone, eight schools in Southwest Ohio were targeted. In these cases, the fake calls have engaged “active shooter” protocols and law enforcement has rushed to the scene. These incidents are unnecessarily traumatic for students, staff, and families, and costly for communities.¹

HB 462 creates the offense of swatting and provides that generally swatting is a third degree felony, but if the violation results in serious physical harm, swatting is a second degree felony. In addition, it allows a court to order an offender to reimburse a law enforcement agency or emergency services provider involved in the emergency response for all or a portion of the costs incurred by the agency or provider during the emergency response.

These changes will serve as a deterrent to future swatting. We urge your support for HB 462. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us with questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tom Perkins, Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA)
Katie Johnson, Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO)

¹ <https://www.journal-news.com/news/swatting-incidents-costly-to-school-districts/IEZ62RQFP5C4TBQYEWPC7P2V4/>