



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE VETERANS AND PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE

OPPONENT TESTIMONY

SB 185

October 5, 2021

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in opposition against SB 185.

While SB 185 would expand the provision allowing the chief administrative officer of a political subdivision with police powers to suppress mobs as well as riots, the bill imposes a substantial preemption against municipal Home Rule authority by prohibiting a city or village from taking actions they deem in the best interest of public safety during situations that pose heightened security concerns for property and life.

It is our deep concern that as currently written, SB 185 would continue the steady erosion of local control for communities across the state. The Ohio Constitution grants Home Rule authority to municipalities in recognition that a government closest to the people governs best, and each city and village should be equipped to serve and protect the interests of their communities.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge for your opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League