



**Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
House Bill 56 – Proponent Testimony
House Criminal Justice Committee**

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony today on HB 56.

My name is Heinz von Eckartsberg. I am the retired Chief of Police in Dublin, Ohio and most recently, the assistant superintendent of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. I am representing the membership of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

We applaud the efforts of the sponsors of this bill to provide a much-needed tool for Ohio law enforcement to combat the growing problem of street racing and street takeovers in our state.

Across our country over the last several years, the problem of street takeovers and street racing has reached a new high. In cities like Columbus, Dayton, Cleveland, and Cincinnati, as well as other cities all across the US, trying to deal with these events has taxed the resources of law enforcement to their limits. Unfortunately, these incidents have also resulted in numerous injuries and even fatalities at times.

As defined in this legislation, “hooning” means the operation of a motor vehicle in a reckless or dangerous manner to provoke a reaction from spectators by speeding; street racing; performing donuts, burnouts, drifting, rapid acceleration, squealing tires, or engine revving; or allowing passengers to ride partially or fully outside of the motor vehicle. This new legislation will help law enforcement to crack down on these incidents and hold those responsible accountable, including the spectators who are complicit in closing and blocking public streets for these events.

As I mentioned earlier, this issue is not unique to our state. All over the country law enforcement has been tasked with trying to stop this practice and keep law abiding motorists safe. This legislation will provide a standard level of accountability statewide for law enforcement to use, rather than different laws and ordinances in every jurisdiction, as is currently the case.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police urges you to support our communities and Ohio law enforcement by supporting Ohio House Bill 56.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share written testimony today. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or concerns we can address.