

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Chana Wiley. I am with OFUPAC, OFUAPB, CSC, and I advocate for my brother, Jaron Thomas, killed by CPD in January 2017 in a mental health crisis while needing help. I am here today to testify as an interested party for House Bill 56 and am here regarding the inclusion of written police pursuit policies for all police departments in Ohio.

I am opposed to increasing penalties for fleeing from law-enforcement. Some people have auditory, sensory, mental health, and intellectual disabilities. Someone could have post traumatic stress disorder, or a fear of dying by the hands of officers. There are many reasons why people may flee the police, and not all of these reasons are bad. I don't feel like increasing charges would be beneficial and could cause a lot of problems in a person's family, or with their jobs, or with their housing, and it could have a rippling effect and cause financial hardships.

I agree with part two, requiring a police pursuit policy, and I feel proper training on policy and procedures can be very beneficial for each department. I also feel an oversight board could be implemented into this training on policy and procedure. I feel the proper training and protocols can mean safer outcomes for citizens and officers, and also hold officers accountable for not following policies and procedures.

I ask you to consider my testimony as you vote on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chana Wiley