



## **Representatives Bride Rose Sweeney & Kevin Miller**

Sponsor Testimony on H.B. 333 (Prohibit Quotas)

December 6, 2023

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### **Rep. Sweeney:**

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and distinguished members of the House Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 333. This bipartisan, commonsense legislation would prohibit requiring law enforcement officers to meet quotas.

A quota is a mandate for a state or local police officer to make a finite number of arrests or issue a certain number of citations over a specific amount of time, such as a month or a pay period. Quotas limit the professional discretion that officers exercise in the course of their duties and in some cases; they can encourage unnecessary encounters with the law, and they distract from the primary objective of law enforcement, which is and should always be to preserve and improve public safety.

For example, under a quota, an officer could be expected to write a certain number of tickets or make a certain number of arrests to keep their job. Arbitrary ticket or arrest quotas should never be the sole means of evaluating a police officer's performance. There are other important metrics for evaluating officers as well. This includes but is not limited to community contacts such as wellness checks, public safety discussions, and other positive interactions that are unrelated to the investigation of a specific crime. Our bill also clarifies what is not considered a quota, such as analyzing data on arrests or citations, and it would not jeopardize federal grants or data collection.

Maintaining quota systems at a time when we are struggling to attract and retain the next generation of Ohio's finest does not help the situation. Quotas typically have a negative impact on officer morale. Removing the discretion of an officer to write a warning versus a citation is not helpful especially when they are working to build community relationships. More so than ever before, we know that younger officers value community contacts and want a closer relationship with the people they serve. We know this is what communities want as well. Passing House Bill 333 shows Ohioans that the police work for them and do not have some ulterior motive like filling a quota.

### **Rep. Kevin Miller:**

There are supervisors, administrators, and officers in charge who view quotas as bad policy but are forced to use them because of an administration that views officers as tools for revenue generation. This is perhaps the greatest reason for prohibiting quotas. Our law enforcement professionals should never be utilized as revenue generators.

Some may ask how to guide an unproductive officer without the use of a written or unwritten quota. The answer is simple: You talk with them, coach them, provide expectations and ensure that they have the training and resources necessary to do their job. You don't just give them an arbitrary number that has no bearing on public safety. Quotas do not make us safer.

When the public believes that police officers are subjected to quotas, it undermines the public trust in law enforcement that is so essential for civil society to function. When officers are mandated to meet quotas, it incentivizes quantity of work over quality of work and adds unnecessary pressure to an already stressful job. Banning this practice will ensure that police officers have the professional discretion to make arrests or write tickets in the interest of public safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony and we would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have.