

# OHIO FAMILIES UNITE

## FOR POLITICAL ACTION AND CHANGE

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Homeland Security Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Emily Cole and I am the Executive Director of Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change, or OFUPAC. OFUPAC was started by Ohio families directly impacted by the criminalization of poverty, police brutality, incarceration, and the criminal legal system here in Ohio. We run a policy table of families impacted by police brutality and ally organizations, and are working in coalition to build an Ohio where everyone gets home safe each day. I am here today to stand with and for our families as a proponent and urge you to pass House Bill 333.

We as an organization are proud to support any efforts by the General Assembly to reduce unnecessary interactions between peace officers and Ohioans. House Bill 333 does just that - it ensures no officer in Ohio is forced to prioritize revenue generation over public safety. Productivity in a department should never be tied to police enforcement mechanisms.

Quotas are an antiquated policy that require law enforcement officers to meet a minimum number of tickets in a certain time period. These policies are counter to developing stronger community-police relations. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, police quotas do the opposite of improving public safety, and in fact *“prevent officers from focusing on larger public safety issues.”*<sup>1</sup> This analysis reported one study found officers with arrest and citation quotas have a lower clearance rate for violent crimes.

Quotas for policing also create opportunity for racially-biased policing. In New York, NYPD officers *“alleged a commander pressured them to enforce low-level violations against Black and Hispanic people, while discouraging them from doing the same to white or Asian people.”*<sup>2</sup>

Twenty-six other states including Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, and Virginia have implemented state law prohibiting the use of quotas by departments. We’ve seen in some local jurisdictions in Ohio successful enforcement depends on extensive

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<sup>1</sup> Brennan Center for Justice, Jackie Fielding, “Outlawing Police Quotas”, published July 13, 2022. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/outlawing-police-quotas>

<sup>2</sup> The New York Times, June 9 2022, <https://perma.cc/LHC6-3PPS>

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education prior to enforcement. Quotas are not only unpopular, but they also are ineffective in building community safety.

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.

Emily Cole