



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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Testimony Letter in Support of Ohio House Bill 333

The Honorable Haraz N. Ghanbari

1 Capitol Square

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Ghanbari and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 333, introduced by Representatives Bride Rose Sweeney and Kevin Miller. This important legislation aims to prohibit the imposition of ticket and arrest quotas on law enforcement officers in Ohio.

As the president of the largest local police union in Ohio, I believe that law enforcement's primary objective should always be the preservation of public safety and the fostering of trust between police officers and the communities they serve. Quotas, which mandate a certain number of arrests or citations within a specific time period, undermine this objective by shifting the focus from genuine public safety concerns to arbitrary numerical targets.

Requiring officers to meet quotas places unnecessary pressure on them, detracting from their ability to exercise professional discretion. This pressure can lead to negative interactions between law enforcement and community members, ultimately eroding public trust. As Representative Sweeney aptly stated, "Quotas not only add unnecessary pressure to an already difficult job, but they also harm police-community relations" (Ohio House).

Furthermore, Representative Miller, drawing on his extensive experience as a former State Highway Patrol Officer, highlighted that law enforcement should prioritize keeping motorists safe and changing unwanted behavior. This is often best achieved through discretion, whether issuing a citation or providing a friendly warning, rather than meeting an arbitrary quota (Ohio House).

The support for H.B. 333 from respected organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio underscores the necessity of this legislation. We both recognize that quotas jeopardize the essential trust between law enforcement and the public, emphasizing that officers are professionals dedicated to protecting our communities, not generating revenue (Ohio Capital Journal).

Additionally, the bill includes accountability provisions, allowing officers to anonymously report the use of quotas, which will prompt investigations by the attorney general. This measure ensures that any misuse of quotas can be addressed, further supporting the bill's aim to maintain integrity within law enforcement practices (Ohio Capital Journal).



In conclusion, passing House Bill 333 is a crucial step toward ensuring that Ohio's law enforcement officers can perform their duties based on sound judgment and public safety needs, free from the constraints of arbitrary quotas. I respectfully urge you to support this bipartisan legislation, which will significantly benefit our law enforcement officers and their communities.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I appreciate your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BA Steel". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Brian A. Steel

President

FOP Capital City Lodge #9