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House Homeland Security Committee

June 5, 2024

Testimony on House Bill 333

Chair Ghanbari, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee,

I am Mike Weinman, a retired Columbus police officer who serves as director of government affairs for the FOP. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the 23,000 FOP members from every corner of Ohio to give proponent testimony on HB 333.

HB 333 will finally end the outdated and draconian practice of setting quotas for arrests and citations. FOP strongly feels that traffic enforcement should not be used to generate revenue. Nor should an officer be forced to make arrests to check a box. When applied correctly, traffic enforcement ensures road safety and modifies drivers' behavior to make them better. Warrantless arrests should be made by on-scene or investigating officers when they feel it is necessary. Quotas put unnecessary pressure on officers to ignore their discretion and act as a wedge between them and their communities.

Using quotas, activity, or performance measures is an unfair system for officer evaluation. Officers, deputies, and troopers work different shifts on different days in various areas. And applying an arbitrary number of arrests and citations that a law enforcement officer must make is unfair and unrealistic. It is well established that second-shift officers typically are dispatched to more calls requiring the completion of paperwork that will take them off the street. On the third shift, there are fewer people out and about.

HB 333 establishes an anonymous system for officers to report violations of the prohibition to quotas to the Ohio Attorney General. Anonymous reporting protects officers from retaliation and keeps agencies honest. The OAG will be able to investigate and issue a cease and desist letter to the offending agency.

For these reasons, the FOP of Ohio respectfully requests that the committee favorably report HB 333.