



Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
House Bill 33 – Interested Party Testimony
House Finance Subcommittee on Public Safety

Chair Miller, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Public Safety, my name is Charles Chandler and I am the Chief of Police of Westerville, representing the membership of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police as President of the association. We appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to testify as an interested party of House Bill 33, the state's operating budget.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police applaud the collaborative work that Governor DeWine, Attorney General Yost, and the legislature have put into the FY24-FY25 operating budget and are pleased to see several line items that will significantly impact law enforcement throughout the state of Ohio. Some examples include:

- Fully funding the monthly payments for MARCS, the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System, to allow first responders across different entities to easily coordinate response efforts.
- Refunding the Rapid DNA pilot project to allow law enforcement booking agencies to develop a DNA profile in approximately 90 minutes.
- Expanding the capabilities of OHLEG, the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway, by allowing for the electronic transfer of case files to prosecutors across the state.
- Modernizing Ohio's 9-1-1 infrastructure by implementing the Next Generation 9-1-1 system.

In addition, we are pleased to see Governor DeWine and Attorney General Yost's support of law enforcement in the "As Introduced" version of the FY24-25 operating budget by allocating \$80 million over the biennium for continued professional training (CPT) funds. The \$80 million would provide the means to reimburse law enforcement agencies for the required 24 hours of CPT, although we are supportive of the efforts to expand reimbursements for up to 40 hours.

While the \$80 million allocation will support CPT reimbursements over the next two years, the leading priority of OACP is to identify and secure a permanent funding source for continued professional training. According to Ohio Revised Code section 109.803 (A)(1), officers are not required to participate in CPT if funding is not available. As a result, lack of training poses risks to law enforcement's ability to adequately protect and serve the citizens of Ohio.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to share testimony on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.