



**OHIO SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**March 25, 2023**

**Written Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 35**

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony regarding our support for Senate Bill 35, which would help to fund law enforcement training and equipment.

The Ohio Municipal League represents more than 730 cities and villages. The vast majority of municipalities have their own police department. And in these communities, nearly 70-80% their budgets go toward supporting law enforcement and fire/EMS.

One of the predominant challenges with municipal police forces are issues related to the recruitment and retention of police officers. Just as important as having an adequate number of police officers is ensuring that those police officers are properly trained. Not only is this training required, but often officers desire to receive additional training on top of what many are currently provided.

Through the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund created in this bill, the state is meeting one of the top needs of municipalities – providing for more consistent law enforcement training through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and full-time training facilities. The bill provides critical financial support for this training.

Furthermore, the bill creates the Law Enforcement Equipment Fund to provide grants for the purchase of law enforcement equipment. OML wholeheartedly supports such a grant program and will assist in ensuring that municipalities take advantage of such a program – which is meeting a current need.

The provisions of Senate Bill 35 will be a welcome addition to the local government toolbox. We appreciate Senator Hoagland and Senator O'Brien for sponsoring this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on behalf of the members of the Ohio Municipal League, and please feel free to reach out to us on this matter or any other issue with which we can be of assistance in the future.

Kent Scarrett  
Executive Director  
Ohio Municipal League