



Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
House Bill 33 – Interested Party Testimony
Senate Finance Committee

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Heinz von Eckartsberg and I am the retired chief of police from Dublin, Ohio, representing the membership of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. We appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to testify as an interested party of Substitute 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. A few 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.
- Funding the Rapid DNA pilot project to allow law enforcement booking agencies to develop a DNA profile in approximately 90 minutes.
- Modernizing Ohio's 9-1-1 infrastructure by implementing the Next Generation 9-1-1 system.

In addition, we are pleased to see the support of law enforcement 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. We are also supportive of the addition of reimbursement of up to 40 hours of CPT, giving each law enforcement agency the opportunity to train their officers based on the needs of the community and agency.

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 more 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, any possible lack of funding in the future would likely result in agencies not completing vital annual training for their officers. This would present a risk 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.