



**Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police**  
**House Substitute Bill 86 – Interested Party Testimony**  
**Senate General Government Committee**

Chair Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide interested party testimony today on Substitute House Bill 86.

My name is Robert Butler. I am the Chief of Police for the city of Independence, Ohio and I am the current 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), on whose behalf I am testifying today.

For years, it has been OACP's top legislative priority to find a stable, permanent source of funding for annual law enforcement training and we are grateful that this legislation is aiming to do just that. House Bill 33, the State's Operating Budget, allocated \$40 million per fiscal year (from the General Revenue Fund) to allow law enforcement agencies to be reimbursed for the training of officers as required by current continued professional training (CPT) standards, as administered by the Attorney General's Office. While we understand that this is a substantial amount of money, it is necessary to help pay for the training of approximately 30,000 law enforcement officers each year.

As I mentioned previously, we are thankful that this legislation intends to provide Ohio law enforcement with this means of funding crucial law enforcement training. To build on these important efforts, we respectfully submit the following suggestions to increase the effectiveness:

1. The current language in the substitute version of the bill identifies 30% of the Marijuana Receipts Fund be directed to the Department of Public Safety to pay for "the training of peace officers and troopers that is required under section 109.803 of the Revised Code." Without knowing what Ohio's gross tax revenue from recreational marijuana will be over the next few years, we would suggest adding clarifying language that would ensure that the fund receives \$40 million dollars each fiscal year – whether that be from the recreational marijuana tax revenue or from a different allocated source. This stability is especially important as agencies work to budget and plan trainings for the future.
2. As I mentioned above, the substitute bill's current language states that the Marijuana Receipts Fund money would be directed to the Department of Public Safety for reimbursement to Ohio law enforcement agencies. We believe this complicates the reimbursement process for Ohio law enforcement. Under this new plan, Ohio's police

executives will have to answer to two separate agencies; the Ohio Attorney General's Office, who sets and administers the training requirements for all Ohio law enforcement officers, and the Ohio Department of Public Safety, who will oversee the reimbursements. To maintain a cohesive, uncomplicated process, we would suggest that the Attorney General's Office remain in charge of training and the administering of funds for Ohio law enforcement.

Again, we are grateful for the legislature's efforts to provide Ohio law enforcement with this long sought after funding stream for annual training.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share this testimony on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. I am happy to answer any questions from the committee at this time.