

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Dytania Hudson, I live in Columbus Ohio, and I am the survivor of losing a child to police brutality and neglect. It's been proven that the brain is not fully developed until the age of 25 yrs. Which leaves me with major concerns of giving a 18yr old permission to protect our community with little training due to a shortage of officers whom are already admitting they're struggling with veterans officers that need more training in our community. There's been several incidents in other states that have been using this approach and it has resulted in far more officers involved shooting.

I'm asking that we focus on the training we all know that needs to be improved per the city and elected officials! Our community is and has been traumatized by inexperienced or should I say untrained officers already. When do we give an 18 yr old a weapon with little training. What are the qualifications to have a high school diploma? What about their mental health - were they ever bullied, and what affiliation do or have they had in the urban community?

I spoke with a family member who is a Lieutenant with the Jackson Tennessee Police Department. I asked him how he felt about officers being hired at the ages of 18 to 21. He informed me that they had two officers at the age of 22 who have been involved in four police shootings in the past year. He opposed this because it is more work for officers to put out those fires and it hurts community police relations.

On March 29th I stood in front of Representatives for the companion bill House Bill 84 to express my concerns of lowering the ages of hiring police officers. I have been talking to community liaisons to find positive solutions for recruitment including trainings, given young adults have very little life experiences with the ability to choose. I understand the frustration of the officers not having the support they need and of the juvenile court systems. The juvenile court system can be working to help with rehabilitation. It would make lives easier for police and for the families in the community. For retention we need investments in the trainings the community needs, community-based officers, community-based policing, to build community relationships.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on Senate Bill 53. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Dytania Hudson