



City of Akron, Ohio

SHAMMAS MALIK, MAYOR

**Written Testimony of Shammass Malik
Mayor, City of Akron, Ohio
Before The Senate Government Oversight Committee
Hearing on H.B. 158
Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

To The Honorable Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and Members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, I am pleased to provide written testimony in support of H.B. 158.

The city of Akron and Summa Health have maintained a partnership for decades to ensure Akron residents have access to quality healthcare services within the community. Earlier this year, Summa announced its plans to be acquired by HATCo., a for-profit entity. It is my understanding that if this transaction moves forward, Summa will not be able to maintain a police force because current law only permits non-profit and public hospitals to do so.

Summa currently employs thirty-five police officers to support its healthcare operations. If the system is approved to become a for-profit system, the officers will still be needed to protect and serve patients, guests, and employees. This level of police protection is maintained by other Ohio hospitals operating within urban cities.

I support H.B.158 because it amends section 4973.17 of Ohio law to include language that would help Summa Health maintain its commissioned police force when it transitions to a for-profit entity.

I appreciate your consideration.