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

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 bill provides an opportunity to amend Ohio law to ensure my community's largest healthcare provider, Summa Health, has an opportunity to maintain a commissioned police force when it transitions to a for-profit system.

For more than seventeen years, the city of Barberton has partnered with Summa leaders to ensure quality primary care and specialty services are available at Barberton Hospital. We appreciate the health system maintaining an emergency services department to respond to patients' urgent and life-threatening health concerns.

Summa currently employs commissioned police officers who protect and serve several hundred patients, visitors, and employees who access Barberton Hospital on a daily basis.

Earlier this year, Summa announced its plans to be acquired by a HATCo., a for-profit entity. If the transaction moves forward, we understand Summa's ability to maintain a police force will not be possible because current law only allows non-profit and public hospitals to maintain a police force. Independent of its tax structure, Summa needs a police force to protect and serve its constituencies. The system should have the same level of police protection and service as other large hospitals operating within the state of Ohio.

I support H.B. 158 advancing through the legislative process and becoming state law.

I appreciate your consideration of my request.



William B. Judge, Mayor

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