



Daniel Sabol, President
Blaise Katter, Public Policy Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB122

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, and Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson,

I am proud to stand before you today on behalf of the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in support of SB122, which codifies the current Criminal Rule 46 regarding bail. I am also very proud to be a part of the diverse and widespread coalition of criminal justice stakeholders speaking to you in one unanimous voice to pass this bill. It goes without saying that it is incredibly uncommon for such a broad coalition to be in complete lockstep on a critical issue such as this, but it just goes to show the importance we all place on getting this right. I deeply appreciate all the work that has gone into this proposal, with special thanks to Chief Justice Kennedy, Lou Tobin from the OPAA, Justice Pfeifer from the Judicial Conference, the Buckeye Sheriffs Association, and the leadership shown by Mary Augsburger and the OSBA.

I wanted to take a brief moment to explain why the Criminal Defense Bar is in favor of maintaining the well-balanced and practical language of Crim. R. 46. As you undoubtedly are aware, reform of the bail system is a very hot topic in criminal justice circles, with extremely strong opinions on all sides of the issue. In light of that fierce debate, the current language of Crim. R. 46 does an admirable job of balancing all the competing interests and helping to minimize the weaponization of bail to unnecessarily incarcerate individuals pretrial. Obviously, this language is not perfect, but it is balanced and acceptable to all stakeholders to maintain the status quo and ensure there is no major disruption to the orderly administration of justice on July 1.

Therefore, I urge this body to pass the current bill as written, including the emergency clause, to ensure that the status quo of setting bail is not disrupted and our judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys continue to have manageable standards to guide the everyday occurrence of setting bail for accused citizens.



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Respectfully Submitted,

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