	<p style="text-align: center;">Senate Judiciary Committee</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Witness Form</p>

Today's Date 11/18/2024

Name: Sheriff Paul Sigsworth

Address: Erie County Sheriff's Office

2800 Columbus Avenue; Sandusky, OH 44870

Telephone: 419-656-5404 (direct)

Organization Representing: Erie County Sheriff's Office

Testifying on Bill Number: Sub HB 289

Testimony: ☐ Verbal ☒ Written ☐ Both

Testifying As: ☒ Proponent ☐ Opponent ☐ Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Special Requests: _____



ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PAUL A. SIGSWORTH
SHERIFF

2800 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
Ph: 419-625-7951
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Email: sheriff@eriecounty.oh.gov

November 18, 2024

The Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Nathan Manning, Chair

via email: Lindsay.Murch@ohiosenate.gov
Brady.Kuhn@ohiosenate.gov

Chair Manning and distinguished members of The Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for considering my proponent testimony in support of Sub. H.B. No. 289. For your reference, I have been employed by the Erie County Sheriff's Office for my entire 40+ year law enforcement career and have served as the Erie County Sheriff since June, 2012. Many years ago, as a then-detective with the Sheriff's Office, I was tasked with registering and checking on sex offenders when the sex offender registration requirements were first codified in Chapter 2950 of the Revised Code.

Sub. H.B. No. 289 contains very beneficial legislation that addresses the legal loopholes that have been created by allowing convicted sex offenders to register as "homeless." While I understand that homeless sex offenders do exist, the allowance to register as homeless has allowed many offenders to do so when in fact they do have fixed addresses. Those offenders register as homeless to avoid the community notification requirements allowing their neighbors to know their residency in a neighborhood and/or allows an offender to actually live at an address where they would otherwise be prohibited by law to live—i.e.: near an elementary school or day care center.

Passage of this legislation will also, hopefully, provide additional safeguards over those allegedly homeless sex offenders who have been paroled and are under the supervision of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation's Adult Parole Authority (APA). I would hope that it would also allow the APA to deny parole to a sex offender who informs the APA before parole is granted that the offender is homeless prior to the approval for parole.



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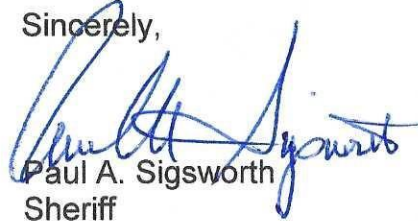
Email: sheriff@eriecounty.oh.gov

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Page 2 of 2

I very respectfully urge you to support this legislation—as well as any future legislation—that will allow Ohio's Sheriffs to more closely monitor these registered sex offenders within the limits of the law.

I am at your service and available to you for any additional information that you may request. Thank you for your consideration of my written testimony.

Sincerely,


Paul A. Sigsworth
Sheriff

cc: Mr. Robert Cornwell
Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
bob@buckeyesheriffs.org