



State Representative Brian Stewart (OH-12) &
State Representative Latyna M. Humphrey (OH-2)
Joint-Sponsor Testimony, House Bill 31
March 11th, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Hall, Vice-Chair Ferguson, my joint sponsor Ranking Member Humphrey, and all of the other members on the Government Oversight Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony in favor of House Bill 31, which will require the electronic recordings of parole board hearings and make recording requestable.

Currently, Ohio parole board is not required in any capacity to record parole hearings. As of 2022, of which is the most current data, roughly 22,000 Ohioans were under parole, and 191,000 under probationⁱ. With so many parolees, it would make sense to have some kind of recording available for reference. H.B. 31 would fix this and allow any party, person, or entity including the inmate who is the subject of said hearing to request the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to provide an electronic recording. Additionally, if the party, person, or entity wishes to have a recording transcribed, can do so at their own expense.

It is also important to mention that the electronic recordings of parole hearings will not include the name, date of birth, home or work address, social security number, age, telephone number, electronic mail address, and any other information that is likely to identify the victim or the victim's immediate family.

I want to thank Representative Humphrey for sticking with this proposed legislation and we hope to see this across the finish line. Thank you again for your time and consideration, and I will now attempt to answer any questions you may have.

ⁱ [Prisonpolicy.org/profiles/OH.html](https://prisonpolicy.org/profiles/OH.html)