

House Public Safety Committee
House Bill 42
Written Testimony Only
Rebecca Baker
11/14/2025

Dear Chairman Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Public Safety Committee,

My name is Rebecca Baker and I am a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit opponent testimony on Ohio HB 42. This bill is trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist. There are already numerous strict qualifications to access public benefits. I am frustrated that the legislature is wasting time on this when our schools need to be focusing on attendance rates and student learning.

Additionally, this bill is government overreach and scapegoats and intimidates immigrants. Instead we should focus on preventative measures like addressing hunger, access to healthcare, and housing inequality. We saw what the loss of SNAP predicated just weeks ago. We should be working to make sure people are able to get out of poverty, not creating more and more barriers to do that.

Schools and service agencies alike will tell you stories of how growing fear of immigration enforcement has contributed to low enrollment and reduced participation in life-saving programs. Many of our partners have worked hard to build trust and provide a safe environment for families to access the services they need and are legally entitled to. We should not be creating laws that deter children from getting access to food and education. We should be finding ways to ensure that children and families have what they need to thrive. Like good paying jobs, lowering inflation, providing quality public education, and building parks.

This bill is unhelpful. It does not solve any problem. Please do not let this bill progress and do not vote it out of committee.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Rebecca Baker