



## FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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### House Judiciary Committee

#### Testimony on House Bill 5

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**GWEN CALLENDER**

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Good Morning, Chair Thomas, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Mike Weinman, and I am testifying in opposition to HB 5, the Repeat Violent Offender Act. I am speaking on behalf of the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police, which has over 23,000 full-time and retired law enforcement officers dedicated to protecting Ohio's citizens.

It may strike some of you as odd that the state's largest police organization would testify against what appears to be a tough-on-crime bill. But the devil is in the details of HB 5. The bill is purported to address career criminals with a firearm. However, so many records are being sealed and expunged under HB 5 that the FOP is forced to oppose the bill. Under HB 5, will there be any career criminals? Some examples of a fifth-degree felony include violating a protection order, receiving stolen property, trafficking in illegal drugs, and breaking and entering. Fourth-degree felonies include vehicle theft, promoting prostitution, and disrupting public services. The bill lowers weapons under disability for a first offense to a fourth-degree felony from a third-degree felony—the third-degree felony kicks in for the second weapons under disability offense. What is also troubling is the expansion of criminals who may receive relief from weapons disability under HB 5. This expansion will include criminals prohibited from obtaining a concealed carry permit. The bill has odd language concerning firearm specifications regarding automatic firearms, mufflers, or suppressors. Suppose the criminal doesn't brandish or indicate they have the weapon. In that case, they can't receive the gun specification when the officer finds the weapon on them during arrest.

While the FOP appreciates the effort, we respectfully ask that HB 5 be tabled and not reported out of committee.