FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.
222 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4611
(614) 224-5700 Fax (614) 224-5775
www.fopohio.org

House Judiciary Committee
November 5, 2025
Testimony on HB 372

Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Synenberg, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio and the tens of thousands of men and women we represent. My name is Jay McDonald, and I am the President of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio. I am an active police officer with 32 years of experience, and I currently serve as the Chief of Police in the City of Marion.

The FOP of Ohio strongly supports House Bill 372, the Larry Henderson Act, to specify that the penalty for aggravated murder for an adult offender is either death or life without the possibility of parole if the victim is a peace officer, prosecutor, first responder, or military member.

The reason that this bill is needed is obvious to my members. It has been a dangerous year for Ohio's law enforcement officers. Four Ohio officers have been killed in the line of duty this year, and at least 14 have been shot while protecting and serving their local communities. In fact, a Lima officer was shot during a traffic stop just this last weekend. Nationally, 251 officers have been shot in the line of duty through September.

This increasing level of deadly violence should be alarming to everyone in Ohio, and we must say enough is enough!

The death penalty and life without the possibility of parole should be reserved for the most heinous acts, and the FOP of Ohio believes strongly that the aggravated murder of a law enforcement officer fits that designation. The aggravated murder of a law enforcement officer is an attack on civil society, an attack on the rule of law, and an attack on the entire community. It deserves the harshest penalty.

We thank Representatives Abrams and Plummer for introducing this bill to Protect Ohio Police. We are proud to support it, and we ask all of you to support it as well. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.