Chair Thomas, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Synenberg, and members of the House Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 372, the Larry Henderson Act

My name is Lieutenant Timothy Nash, and I've proudly served the citizens of Hamilton County with their Sheriff's Office for just over 32 years. I stand before you today not only as a law enforcement officer, but as Larry Henderson's friend and a colleague whose path crossed with his many times during our 31 years of service together.

Over the years, Larry was my trainer in the Corrections Academy, my commander on the Sheriff's Dive Team, and my co-worker as my career progressed after we both became patrol officers. As time went on and we travelled down our different career paths, I was fortunate enough to have Larry on my squad as a newly promoted Patrol Sergeant, as well as being his supervisor when I was the administrative commander of the Sheriff's Hazardous Devices Unit (commonly called the bomb squad).

After serving with Larry, I quickly realized what everyone who knew him already knew: he valued every person he met and always did whatever he could to help them. — He was the kind of person who made everyone around him better. No matter who they were or what they did, he could see the good in people.

Following his service as a Marine and retiring from the Sheriff's Office, Larry could have stayed home and enjoyed his well-deserved retirement with Lori and their young foster children.
But that wasn't Larry.
He came back to serve again — this time as a Special Deputy with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office — because serving others was simply part of who he was.

On May 2nd, 2025, while directing traffic for the University of Cincinnati commencement ceremony, Larry was senselessly murdered by someone with a thirst for revenge against Law Enforcement Officers, a thirst he satisfied by attacking the first officer he came across. —This person wasn't looking for a specific officer or an officer from a specific agency. He was just looking for a police officer, ANY police officer, to exact his revenge upon, and he found Larry. Larry was murdered simply for wearing a uniform and doing what he always did — helping others and keeping people safe.

On that terrible day, I had the solemn privilege of standing vigil outside Larry's ICU room while, just a few feet away from me, Larry's life slipped away from him, surrounded by Lori and his five children. — The pain and grief etched on their faces and the sound of their grieving is something that is forever seared into my memory; something I will carry with me into my final moments on this earth.

Later that afternoon, I was assigned to be the Family liaison officer for Lori. As such, it was my responsibility to assist Lori with the planning and arrangements for Larry's funeral, advocate for her and the family's wishes in the planning process, help her navigate the myriad details associated with a Line of Duty Death, be by her side as she personally received hundreds of people offering their condolences said, and most difficult of all, support her as she said her final

goodbye to Larry on the day of his funeral. In my capacity, I did what I could to make the process as easy as possible for Lori, and in doing so, shared some of the pain she had endured over that week with her.

Standing vigil outside Larry's room and serving as Lori's liaison officer gave me a front-row seat to the personal pain and devastation that the murder of a first responder brings to their family. While I can never fully understand the full scope of the pain and grief that Lori and Larry's family have been subjected to, I have shared a portion of that pain over the days and weeks following his loss. Knowing how bad it stings me, I cannot imagine the pain and hurt they must feel.

House Bill 372 recognizes not only Larry's sacrifice, but the sacrifice of all Law Enforcement Officers murdered in Ohio. It not only ensures that those who commit violent acts against peace officers and public servants face the fullest measure of justice, it ensures that those who are left behind to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives do not have to re-live the pain and trauma of those events every time a Parole Hearing is scheduled or, God forbid, the killer of their loved one is allowed to walk free while they have nothing but the memories and the headstone of their loved one to hold on to.

This bill isn't about vengeance — it's about accountability, deterrence, and protecting the survivors of those who give up their lives while protecting us. It sends a clear message to first responders and their loved ones: that Ohio stands with its public servants and their loved ones and will not tolerate violence against them.

Larry Henderson lived a life of service — to his country, his community, and his fellow officers. Even in retirement, he chose to come back and serve again. The least we can do is honor that legacy by ensuring the law protects our protectors and their families.

I urge you to support House Bill 372. Let Larry's final act of selfless service be one that ultimately protects the families and loved ones of those first responders who will tragically, yet inevitably, follow in his footsteps.

Thank you, Chair and members of the committee, for your time and for your continued commitment to justice and public safety.