



OFFICE OF THE LICKING COUNTY DOG WARDEN

544 Dog Leg Rd Heath, Ohio 43056

Phone: 740-349-6563

Fax: 740-323-0126

Chief Larry Williams

Written **Proponent** testimony for HB 247 revision of dog laws, including dangerous and vicious dogs.

To: Madam Chair Cindy Abrams and Safety Committee Members

From: Larry Williams, SE Director of Ohio County Dog Warden Association

Date: June 3, 2025

Madam Chair Cindy Abrams and members of the Safety Committee,

My name is Larry Williams, and I am Chief Dog Warden for Licking County Ohio and the SE Director for Ohio County Dog Warden Association or OCDWA. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a PROponent to HB 247.

In my 17 plus years working in Dog Wardens Office I have seen the laws regarding vicious and dangerous dogs change only once to what we currently have. These laws have proven to not keep public safe from dangerous or vicious dog attacks.

Dog Wardens need a way to impound dangerous and vicious dogs when they act in an unprovoked manner. Impounding these dogs would keep the public safe from another incident happening, not allowing them to serious maul or kill a child or a person. After impounding the dog, provisions to mandate getting the dog owners, keeper or harborers get in front of court so the court may order obedience training, liability insurance, or euthanasia depending on the evidence and testimony from the victims and witness's regarding the injuries or behavior of the dangerous and vicious dogs.

Case one: victim was attacked after he had delivered pizza to the dog owner. The dog grabbed the delivery drivers arm and pulled him to the ground attacking him on and off while dog owner was trying to get dog under control. Injuries sustained to delivery driver where severe lacerations to scalp (portion of scalp was torn off), injuries to left arm, right arm, and injuries sustained to dog owner were puncture wounds to right hand.

Case two: mail carrier delivering mail was attacked by dog biting the mail carrier on his left check leaving tooth laceration marks and tearing the corner of his mouth with



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a severe tear that tore completely through check, multiple bite wounds (4-6) on right leg around calf area front and back, bite wound on left wrist.

Case three: victim was passing football around with friend in their yard when neighbor's dog ran up and attacked victim. Victim sustained two deep lacerations to left leg just above ankle on shin calf area (completely through skin and into fatty tissue of victim), right arm at elbow on top side of arm, skin peeled away (like an orange) fatty tissue exposed to environment, right arm at elbow underside of arm two very deep lacerations (fatty tissue exposed and protruding out), bruising and scratches on back (five scratches, three bruises).

Unprovoked dog attack or mauling's and fatalities are happening across Ohio. Without the ability to impound these dogs the outcomes are to designate the dog and issue charges (most of the time those charges are minor misdemeanors) and hope the dog owner, keeper or harbinger appeal the designation so you can be in front of a Judge. If not appealed, that means dog will stay in home to attack again. There is Public outcry when a dog has attacked unprovoked and by law gets to stay with owner.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Safety Committee, for allowing me to provide testimony for support of HB 247. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of assistance to you in this endeavor to provide a safer public place for our children and citizens across Ohio. Thank you for your consideration.

Larry Williams

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Williams", written over a large, faint watermark of the Licking County Dog Warden logo.

Chief Dog Warden
Licking County Ohio
544 Dog Leg Road
Heath, Ohio 43056