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Ohio House Public Safety Committee

House Bill 247 – Proponent Testimony

Kyle Petty – County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety Committee, my name is Kyle Petty, and I am the Managing Director of Policy at the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. I appreciate the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on House Bill 247.

CCAO's support of this bill followed conversations with Representative Miller, and the Ohio County Dog Warden's Association. The Ohio County Dog Warden's Association is an affiliate member of CCAO and we are pleased to support HB 247 alongside their association. Counties across Ohio have recently experienced several high-profile incidents involving nuisance, dangerous, or vicious dogs attacking citizens.



We believe that HB 247 will prevent future attacks from taking place across Ohio. The bill accomplishes this goal by updating the statutes surrounding nuisance, vicious, and dangerous dogs and provides Ohio's dog wardens with the tools to enforce the statutes.

The bill creates a hearing process for a court to designate dogs as nuisance, dangerous, or vicious dogs based on certain criteria. HB 247 replaces the "one free bite" rule that currently exists in the Ohio Revised Code with respect to dog bites. Under the bill, a dog can be designated a dangerous or vicious dog at the first incident if the dog kills or causes serious physical injury to a person or livestock.

Additionally, HB 247 imposes new requirements for owners of vicious or dangerous dogs and increases penalties for violations of those requirements. The bill also provides tools to the county dog warden to enforce these violations by clarifying that dog wardens have the authority to make arrests and enforce all of Ohio's Dog Law, rather than only specified provisions under current law. We also appreciate the potential for increased revenue to fund the dog warden's office through the encouragement of dog registration with the county auditor and increased

registration fees for dangerous and vicious dogs contained in the substitute bill.

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 247. We appreciate Representatives Miller, Lawson-Rowe, and Thomas coming together to combine their bills into one bill to address this important issue. If the committee has any questions or needs anything else from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.