



**Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police  
House Bill 217 – Proponent Testimony  
House Public Safety Committee**

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, and Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 217, the Finding and Identifying with NamUs Data (FIND) Act.

House Bill 217 addresses a gap in Ohio's response to missing persons by requiring law enforcement agencies to enter information about missing individuals into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) if they are not located within 30 days of the report being filed. This bill applies to missing children, young adults ages 18 to 20, and adults 21 and older, ensuring that vital information is accessible to investigators and families across jurisdictional lines.

NamUs is a national database operated by the U.S. Department of Justice that helps match missing persons with unidentified remains and provides free forensic support to law enforcement. By requiring agencies to use NamUs, HB 217 will improve information sharing among local, state, and federal agencies, increase the chances of finding and identifying missing persons through better data and forensic tools, and help bring answers and closure to families searching for loved ones.

The bill also requires agencies to update NamUs when a missing person is found, ensuring the system remains current and accurate. Importantly, HB 217 respects the operational realities of law enforcement, allowing flexibility in cases where gathering dental records or other information is unduly burdensome, while still prioritizing timely data entry.

From the perspective of Ohio's police chiefs, this legislation strengthens our commitment to public safety and transparency. It aligns with best practices in missing persons investigations and supports our mission to serve families and communities with compassion and diligence.

OACP urges your support for HB 217 and stands ready to work with the General Assembly to ensure its effective implementation.

Thank you for your consideration.