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HB852 Sponsor Testimony

Chair Abrams, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 852.

House Bill 852 is straightforward legislation. It states that individuals who are appointed to serve as chief of police must complete an Ohio peace officer basic training program.

Under current law, an individual may in some circumstances be appointed as police chief without completing Ohio's peace officer basic training requirements. While many chiefs already possess extensive law enforcement backgrounds, this bill closes an important gap by ensuring that all appointed chiefs meet a consistent baseline standard of training and preparedness.

In communities across our state, police chiefs are entrusted with extraordinary responsibility. They establish department policy, oversee officer conduct and training, make critical operational decisions, and serve as the public face of law enforcement in their jurisdictions. These responsibilities require not only administrative ability, but also a foundational understanding of Ohio law enforcement practices and the realities officers face in the field every day.

Chair Abrams, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 852. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have