



Poland Township Police District

Chief of Police: Greg Wilson

TESTIMONY OF CHIEF GREG WILSON

Before the Ohio Senate Education Committee
Regarding Senate Bill 318

February 16, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony regarding Senate Bill 318.

My name is Greg Wilson, and I serve as Chief of Police for the Poland Township Police Department. I respectfully submit this testimony in support of legislation that would clarify Ohio law to authorize townships and township police districts to enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), pursuant to section 3313.951 of the Revised Code, to provide School Resource Officer services to chartered nonpublic schools located within their territorial jurisdiction.

For the past two years, Poland Township has operated under an MOU with Holy Family School, a chartered nonpublic school located within our jurisdiction. We are currently in the final year of a three-year agreement under which we provide one police officer exclusively assigned to Holy Family as a School Resource Officer during times the school is in session.

This partnership has provided structured, proactive safety coordination. The MOU clearly defines scope of services, operational expectations, supervision, communication protocols, emergency response coordination, and liability protections. It has allowed both the Township and the school to maintain a consistent and accountable safety presence for students and staff.

In September 2025, Ohio Attorney General Opinion 2025-018 concluded that a non-home-rule township lacks authority to directly enter into an MOU with a nonpublic school. As a result, when our current agreement expires at the end of this school year, we will no longer have clear statutory authority to continue providing SRO services to Holy Family in the same structured and accountable manner that we provide services to the Poland Local School District.

Modern school safety requires planning, coordination, clearly defined roles, and accountability. An MOU provides that structure.

In 2025, the United States continued to experience a significant number of firearm-related incidents on K–12 campuses. According to the K–12 School Shooting Database, maintained by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School, there were 233 school shooting incidents nationwide in 2025, resulting in 148 individuals wounded or killed on K–12 school grounds. This database is widely recognized as one of the most comprehensive academic sources tracking firearm incidents on school property. The data makes clear that school-related gun violence remains a persistent national concern.

While Poland Township has been fortunate not to experience such a tragedy, we would be failing in our duty if we did not plan, prepare, and formalize safety partnerships in advance.

Senate Bill 318, introduced by Senator Al Cutrona, provides a narrow and responsible legislative clarification.

This language would not mandate services, expand police powers, or require additional state funding. It would simply restore clarity and consistency by allowing township police departments — with formal approval from their elected township trustees — to enter into structured Memorandums of Understanding to provide School Resource Officer services within their jurisdiction.

I have also consulted with leadership from the Ohio Chiefs of Police Association and the Ohio School Resource Officers Association. Both organizations have expressed support for legislative clarification that would allow townships to enter into Memorandums of Understanding with chartered nonpublic schools. Their support reflects a shared understanding among law enforcement professionals across Ohio that clear statutory authority would strengthen school safety efforts statewide.

Safety is, and will always be, our highest priority. Protecting children is fundamental to our mission.


While this issue arises from Poland Township, it affects townships across Ohio facing the same statutory limitation. Ohio’s children are our greatest asset. Regardless of where they attend school, they deserve a learning environment where they feel safe and secure.


Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.


Respectfully submitted,



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