

**SUPPORT - SB 114**

**Written Testimony** of National Lawyers Guild-National Police Accountability Project, Keisha James, Staff Attorney  
**Senate Judiciary Committee** – Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Dear Chair Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment on this important issue. The National Lawyers Guild National Police Accountability Project (“NPAP”) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to holding law enforcement officers accountable to constitutional and professional standards. We are submitting testimony as a proponent of SB 114, which seeks to end ticket and arrest quotas for law enforcement officers across all departments in Ohio.

Quotas increase unnecessary encounters between law enforcement officers and the community, which in turn increases law enforcement use of force. For example, a traffic stop initiated over a low-level violation could easily escalate into an excessive use of force. In 2021, for instance, Clifford Owensby, a paraplegic man, was dragged from his vehicle by his hair and arms by two officers from the Dayton Police Department after being stopped for a window tint violation.<sup>1</sup> Many recent, high-profile law enforcement encounters with civilians that have resulted in the death of the civilian began as traffic stops for similar low-level violations. For example, Daunte Wright was shot and killed by a Brooklyn Center, Minnesota police officer who pulled Wright over for driving with an air freshener hanging from his rearview mirror and expired registration tags.<sup>2</sup> Even if an encounter does not end in excessive force, quotas expose individuals to greater scrutiny from law enforcement because many stops initiated solely to meet the quota requirement may evolve into continued questioning, searches, or even arrests.

SB 114 would protect Ohioans by eliminating unnecessary contacts driven by quotas. Instead, law enforcement officers could reserve contact with civilians for situations where public safety is truly in jeopardy.<sup>3</sup> One study has found that officers subjected to quota requirements for tickets

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<sup>1</sup> Cornelius Frolik, *Dayton settles with Clifford Owensby, paraplegic man yanked from car by police*, Dayton Daily News (Sept. 27, 2023), available at <https://www.daytondailynews.com/local/dayton-settles-with-clifford-owensby-paraplegic-man-yanked-from-car-by-police/PVHWRS2NVFGPEYFKJ5WMHSXPA/>.

<sup>2</sup> The New York Times, *What to Know About the Death of Daunte Wright*, The New York Times (Feb. 21, 2022), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/article/daunte-wright-death-minnesota.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Jackie Fielding, *Outlawing Police Quotas*, Brennan Center for Justice (July 13, 2022), available at <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/outlawing-police-quotas>.



and arrests have lower clearance rates for violent crimes,<sup>4</sup> meaning that instead of issuing tickets for activities with little to no impact on community safety, officers could be devoting more time to investigating violent crimes. Eliminating quotas would also increase community trust in law enforcement by showing the community that officers are dedicated to solving complex and violent crimes and improving community safety. Individuals are more likely to share information if they believe law enforcement officers are working to protect them, which enables the officers to do their jobs more effectively. Ohio would not be alone in taking this step toward greater public safety—over two dozen states and D.C. have passed laws to prohibit quotas.<sup>5</sup>

We urge you to consider our testimony and vote yes on this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. You can contact NPAP at [keisha.npap@nlg.org](mailto:keisha.npap@nlg.org).

Sincerely,

Keisha James  
National Police Accountability Project

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* See also Keith Goble, *Six states consider legislation to address ticket quotas*, Land Line (Mar. 6, 2024), available at <https://landline.media/six-states-consider-legislation-to-address-ticket-quotas/> (listing additional states that considered limiting ticket quotas for law enforcement officers last legislative session).