



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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Testimony in Support of Ohio Senate Bill 114

The Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 114, introduced by Senator Tom Patton. This critical legislation seeks to prohibit the imposition of ticket and arrest quotas on law enforcement officers in Ohio.

As the president of the largest local police union in Ohio, I firmly believe that law enforcement's primary duty is to preserve public safety and foster trust between officers and the communities we serve. Mandating quotas—whether for arrests, citations, or other enforcement actions—undermines this objective by shifting the focus from genuine public safety concerns to arbitrary numerical targets.

Quotas place unnecessary pressure on officers, limiting their ability to exercise professional discretion. This pressure can lead to negative interactions between law enforcement and the public, ultimately eroding trust.

As Senator Patton has highlighted, public safety decisions should be based on the circumstances of each situation, not on pre-set enforcement numbers. Law enforcement professionals must be able to issue a warning when appropriate rather than feeling compelled to meet an artificial quota.

The necessity of this legislation is evident in the strong support from respected organizations like the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, FOP Queen City Lodge #69, Toledo Police Patrolman's Association, Dayton FOP Lodge #44, Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association, Akron FOP Lodge #7, Ohio State Troopers Association, and Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. We recognize that quotas jeopardize the critical trust between law enforcement and the public, emphasizing that officers are professionals dedicated to protecting communities, not generating revenue.

Additionally, Senate Bill 114 includes accountability measures that allow officers to anonymously report the use of quotas, triggering investigations by the Attorney General. This provision ensures that concerns about enforcement practices can be addressed, reinforcing the

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bill's goal of maintaining the integrity of Ohio's law enforcement agencies.

Passing Senate Bill 114 is a crucial step toward ensuring that Ohio's law enforcement officers can perform their duties based on sound judgment and public safety needs, free from the constraints of arbitrary quotas. I respectfully urge you to support this bipartisan legislation, which will significantly benefit law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I appreciate your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Steel". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "B" and a cursive "Steel".

Brian Steel
President, Fraternal Order of Police
Capital City Lodge #9