

April 7, 2025

The Honorable Nathan Manning, Chair  
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee  
1 Capital Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: Written Testimony of Carolyn Brakey in Support of Senate Bill 114**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 114. I serve as Geauga County's newest county commissioner and write in strong support of this bill. I offer this testimony in my personal capacity, as someone committed to limited and accountable government.

The foundational purpose of government, as articulated by John Locke and echoed in our nation's founding documents, is to protect the life, liberty, and property of the citizen. Law enforcement is entrusted with this bedrock responsibility—to stand between the citizen and those who would do harm, and to uphold the rule of law on neutral, principled grounds.

But when enforcement decisions are driven not by public safety, but by revenue targets, performance metrics, or political pressure, the entire moral basis for law enforcement is compromised. Quotas invert the purpose of policing. They turn a protective function into a predatory one. When citations or arrests are made not because they are necessary, but because a number must be met, the state ceases to act as a guardian and becomes an antagonist.

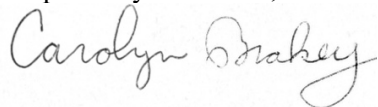
Here in Geauga County, Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand's Office does not use ticket quotas—a standard of professionalism I commend. However, not all law enforcement agencies operate with the same standards. Practices differ across the state, and leadership changes over time. This legislation ensures all Ohioans are protected by the same clear guardrails, no matter which jurisdiction they pass through or who holds power.

Public trust is not built through metrics. It is built through integrity, restraint, and fidelity to principle. Officers must be free to exercise judgment based on context and conscience—not quotas.

Senate Bill 114 restores that balance. It affirms that our law enforcement officers are professionals, not revenue agents. It reminds the public that the law exists to protect, not to plunder. And it reasserts a fundamental truth: that no government has the moral authority to punish its citizens for the purpose of funding itself.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 114. Let us pass this legislation and restore the ethical core of public safety in Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Brakey". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline.

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.  
Gauga County  
carolyn@carolynbrakey.com