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Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 188 Sponsor Testimony
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Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 188. This bill prohibits an individual from resisting arrest by barricading themselves in a physical structure such as a car or house.

This issue was brought to me by the U.S. Marshals Violent Fugitive Task Force due to an uptick in violent fugitives barricading themselves in structures or vehicles during arrest attempts. These situations often result in hours-long stand-offs, which pose significant safety threats to the local communities and expend the resources of law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, and even schools in the event of an evacuation.

Currently, we do not feel like there is an appropriate punishment for these fugitives who are barricading during arrest attempts. We have no state or federal law on the books as an enhancement to resisting arrest, so fugitives may feel they have nothing to lose by barricading themselves. We believe this bill would provide law enforcement officers with a negotiation tool to talk the fugitives out of the barricade more quickly. We believe more fugitives would be willing to give themselves up rather than face additional

criminal penalties associated with a stand-off. For those who do not give themselves up, we believe they should be held accountable for putting others in harm's way.

In the coming weeks, we will have a slew of law enforcement agencies testifying in support of this bill, led by U.S. Marshal Pete Elliott and the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force. Chairman Manning and the members of the committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today. I welcome any questions from the committee.