

**Proponent Testimony of Deputy United States Marshal Joshua Lowe
Regarding Senate Bill 188**

Chair Manning and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 188, also known as the Barricade Bill, which will help to protect police officers and community members in the State of Ohio.

I have been a Deputy US Marshal for 15 years and for the last 10 years have been assigned to the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force as both an officer and a supervisor. We consistently pursue the most violent fugitives, including murderers, rapists, sexual predators, and other violent fugitives who are the worst of the worst.

Over the past few years, we have noticed an uptick in barricaded fugitives in structures and vehicles during our arrest attempts. During these barricade situations there is often an increased risk to officer and civilian safety, excessive damage to property, and additional law enforcement and other public safety resources deployed. Depending on the fugitive, each barricade situation ends differently, ranging from a surrender to less-than-lethal or lethal devices being deployed. Not only are the officers involved put at a higher risk of danger but often other residents, including elderly persons or minors inside the home, are also put at risk due to the fugitive's actions to barricade.

Currently, there is not an appropriate punishment for these fugitives barricading. We fully support legislation that would prevent fugitives from barricading and causing further risk to the public, law enforcement, and other responders like EMS or Fire, and to eliminate strain on law enforcement resources and time. During barricade situations, law enforcement often has direct communication with the fugitive via a cell phone or direct communications. If this bill is passed, this could provide law enforcement crisis intervention officers with a negotiation tool that could be used to talk the fugitives out of the barricade more efficiently.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on this important issue.