

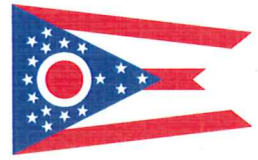


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Senate Judiciary Committee

October 29, 2025

Testimony on Senate Bill 188

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio and the tens of thousands of men and women we represent. My name is Jay McDonald, and I am the President of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio. I am an active police officer with 32 years of experience, and I currently serve as the Chief of Police in the City of Marion.

Senate Bill 188 is the answer to a growing problem for Ohio's law enforcement officers. Increasingly, violent criminals are choosing to barricade themselves in locations that make apprehending them more dangerous. In a time with increasing dangers to law enforcement officers, Ohio should be doing everything it can to make my members' jobs safer.

The dangers faced by law enforcement officers in these instances increase rapidly. Is the suspect arming themselves? Are they attempting to hide inside the home, making their apprehension more dangerous? Officers must be prepared for all possibilities.

The willful act to ignore lawful orders to come outside and allow a safe arrest not only increases the dangers to the law enforcement officers, but these purposeful decisions also increase the cost and inconvenience to taxpayers. A SWAT and negotiator call out, roads blocked, neighbors evacuated, all because a violent criminal chooses to ignore lawful orders.

Ohio has seen four officers killed in the line of duty this year. We have seen at least 13 officers shot in the line of duty in Ohio in 2025. This simple bill could make the job of being an Ohio law enforcement officer safer, and because of that, we urge the passage of Senate Bill 188 and thank Senator Patton for bringing this bill forward.