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Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
1 Capitol Sq.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Manning and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my support for House Bill 20. This legislation would establish a perimeter, or "HALO" within which law enforcement officers may perform their duties without civilian interference.

During my time serving as Ohio's Attorney General, I have advocated for meaningful investments in law enforcement, and I have observed the legislature rightfully dedicate state resources to support Ohio's police force. This investment reflects an understanding of the critical role that our officers play, and demonstrates the General Assembly's commitment to supporting them through continuing training, access to new technologies and other resources that assist them in their goal of protecting and serving our communities. House Bill 20 represents an additional step in the right direction by prohibiting interference with an emergency service provider in the performance of their legal duties.

As the state's top law enforcement officer, it is incumbent on me to do that which is in my power to remove obstacles to officers fulfilling their duties. A "HALO" law in Ohio would do just that, by establishing a boundary within which an officer may do their job free of outside interruption or interference. This policy would empower Ohio's law enforcement community to carry out their critical missions in volatile scenarios that can often be described as "life or death."

I commend Representatives Plummer and Hall for sponsoring this important piece of legislation and would urge the committee to consider progressing the bill forward with haste. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with questions.

Yours,

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General