

OHIO PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

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John E. Murphy
Executive Director

Memo To: Senate Criminal Justice Committee

From: John Murphy

Date: September 30, 2015

Re: HB-110; failure to stop

Our association supports the enactment of HB-110 that proposes to increase the penalty for leaving the scene of an accident if the accident resulted in serious physical harm to or the death of any person.

It is much more difficult to prosecute those who flee the scene for any offense related to impaired driving because of alcohol or drug use. By the time the driver's identity is determined, it is almost always too late to administer a test for alcohol or drug use.

Even more importantly, fleeing the scene can result in greater harm to the victim because it can delay the arrival of assistance, and therefore delay treatment. We hope that making the penalty for leaving the scene equal to or greater than the penalty for aggravated vehicular homicide in most cases or aggravated vehicular assault, more drivers will be dissuaded from abandoning the victim at the scene. As a consequence, more victims should receive assistance more promptly and have a better chance of surviving and minimizing their injuries.

For these reasons we support the enactment of HB-110.

cc: Rep. Brian Hill

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