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*Advocating for Life, Faith, and Freedom in the Public Square*

To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Chris Long, Ohio Christian Alliance President

Re: Supporting testimony on S. B. 16 Create civil action for police-civil rights/false complaint

Thank you, Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Minority Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for receiving our testimony in support of S.B. 359, that creates civil action for police-civil rights/false complaint, sponsored by State Senator Schaffer.

S.B. 16 is legislation that will provide additional protections for police, firemen, paramedics, EMTs, and emergency public service personnel, as well as for their families. S.B. 359 increases the penalties for those who would commit felonious assault acts of intimidation and harassment or threats to terrorize emergency service personnel who are serving the public's trust.

The time for this legislation has come, as Ohioans witnessed earlier this year anarchy in the streets of our cities. Protests turned into riots and civil unrest with the destruction of property and violent assaults against citizens, law enforcement and emergency personnel who were simply carrying out their duties, responding to calls for service. These civil servants who faithfully serve the public's trust are entitled to these additional protections that S.B. 16 details.

Another reason for this legislation is to send a clear message that we the people of Ohio support our police, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, and emergency service personnel. When many are reconsidering whether they should put themselves or their families at risk by choosing a career in civil service, this committee and legislative body can send a strong message that we support them and we have their backs.

Thank you, Chairman Manning and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for receiving our testimony in support of S.B. 16.