



## Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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Senate Bill 41  
Written Proponent Testimony  
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Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 41 to enact specific mechanisms to enable law enforcement agencies, other public agencies, and governmental entities such as a political subdivision to seek reimbursement and restitution for certain costs incurred as the result of a response to serious threats and for crimes like vandalism, inciting to riot, and aggravated riot that result in harm to government property.

The riots that took place in Ohio last Spring and Summer were costly to Ohio communities in a variety of ways. They were damaging to public safety and they resulted in more specific damages to small businesses that were already dealing with effects of a pandemic, larger businesses that absorbed property damage, and governments that incurred costs related to the riot response and damage to government property. Reports suggest that the total costs in Columbus, between the response to the riots and damage to property, were around \$3.3 million. In Cleveland it was estimated to be around \$6.3 million. Cincinnati, Toledo, and Dayton all incurred costs in the hundreds of thousands.

Senate Bill 41 provides a clear legal authority and a mechanism for governments and governmental agencies to recover at least some of the costs related to events like these so that the taxpayers are not stuck with the bill. Most important from the perspective of the prosecutors is the ability to obtain restitution for harm to government property resulting from vandalism, inciting to violence, and aggravated riot including any costs related to cleaning or restoration. While events like those that we witnessed last summer are hopefully exceedingly rare, prosecutors would appreciate the opportunity in the future to seek to recover the costs of damages to their communities from such acts. Senate Bill 41 would provide them with that ability.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on this bill, thank Sen. Schaffer for his work and advocacy on behalf of law enforcement, other emergency service personnel, and local governments and for his efforts to allow them to seek to be made whole.