



A1§4 Protection PAC

May 17, 2022

RE: Support for Senate Bill 266

Good afternoon Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, ranking member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I testify in support of Senate Bill 266.

Ohio has long maintained code to protect persons who provide emergency care.

ORC Section 2305.23 Liability for emergency care:

No person shall be liable in civil damages for administering emergency care or treatment at the scene of an emergency outside of a hospital, doctor's office, or other place having proper medical equipment, for acts performed at the scene of such emergency, unless such acts constitute willful or wanton misconduct.

This section has worked well and protected those who protect others. But it falls short of what is needed in today's world. While it is great to administer care for those injured in a violent attack, it is surely better to prevent such injuries from ever being inflicted. Certainly, someone stopping an injury from occurring should be afforded similar protection to someone treating that same injury. That is what Senate Bill 266 seeks to do.

The ugly truth is that twice as many people are murdered at churches every year as are murdered in schools. Houses of worship have responded by having security teams to protect their staff and guests. Those teams are usually comprised of volunteers who donate their time, money, and skill for the benefit of others. SB 266 would protect such people from liability caused by their well-meaning efforts to save others from harm.

Senate Bill 266 is carefully drafted to protect nonprofit corporations and those acting to limit casualties of violence. It is good public policy and I urge its passing.

Jim Irvine, Chairman

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Jim Irvine is a co-director of the FASTER Saves Lives program. He serves on the Board of Directors of Second Amendment Foundation and Buckeye Firearms Foundation.