My name is Anthony Wilson, and I am an Assistant Chief of Police for the Westerville, Ohio Police Department. I am a proponent of House Bill 137, to amend section 2151.421 if the Ohio Revised Code to make police officers mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect, as well as to expand the types of peace officers authorized to receive reports of child abuse and neglect.

I am a proponent of this bill first because as a peace officer we have a duty and a responsibility to serve and protect, and this bill simply enhances our responsibility and our ability to protect our most precious and valuable resource. Second, as a child that spent his first eight years being raised in an environment of domestic abuse and alcoholism, I know first-hand the life-long trauma that a child experiences. As a 26-year law enforcement veteran and a military veteran, I do not believe any peace officer would have a problem being included with the other professions that are mandated to protect the children that suffer from child abuse and neglect.

John F. Kennedy once said, “Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.” I believe this bill gives our most valuable resource hope for the future! Thank you.