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**Sponsor Testimony**

**State Senator Joseph Uecker**

**State Senator Frank LaRose**

**Senate Bill 272**

**Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**May 9, 2018**

Thank you Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Senate Bill 272.

SB 272 seeks to modernize oversight of the private investigator and security industries in Ohio while easing some of the regulatory burdens currently placed on this industry. This legislation represents an initiative led by the private investigator and security services industry and was overseen by the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The Private Investigation & Security Services Commission, an advisory board of the industry, general public and law enforcement officials, unanimously endorsed these changes in the last General Assembly, and continues to recommend these updates to the industry.

This legislation improves the licensing process and regulation of the private investigator and security industry in Ohio by implementing a number of common sense changes intended to improve this industry while continuing to protect Ohioans. These changes include the following:

* Ensures a streamlined, efficient and comprehensive registration process that will be recognized industry wide. Under current law, a security guard is required to go through the registration process for each and every employer. SB 272 will allow the security guard to obtain one registration that will follow them as they work for different employers, eliminating duplication of costs.
* Under current law, a license and registration must be renewed every year. SB 272 eases this burden by making the license and registration valid for two years.

* Allows the Director of Public Safety to deny, suspend, or place sanctions on a license or registration if a danger of immediate and serious harm to the public is present.
* Requires a reasonable amount of industry training for the first time. Currently, security guards and private investigators are not required to complete any training.

Please join us in making it less burdensome to operate a security guard or private investigation business in Ohio. SB 272 will strengthen an industry that defends and serves Ohioans every day.

We would be happy to answer any questions.