



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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Senate Bill 202
Proponent Testimony
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Chairman Coley, Vice-Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 202.

As the committee knows, Brian Golsby's release into homelessness and lack of adequate GPS monitoring, along with the lack of an indefinite sentence that would have enabled the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to extend Golsby's sentence for institutional infractions, contributed to the tragic circumstances that resulted in the murder of Reagan Tokes last year.

While our Association's focus on the Reagan Tokes legislation has been largely on the indefinite sentencing aspect of these bills, we are also supportive of the policies in Senate Bill 202. Most importantly, there are two aspects of Senate Bill 202 that will fill gaps in the way the state manages offenders who are released from prison. First, the bill requires the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to establish a reentry program to prevent offenders from being released into homelessness. Second, the bill improves GPS monitoring by requiring that GPS monitoring systems used for offenders released from prison specify restrictions on movement and streamline the sharing of GPS location information with law enforcement.

We believe that these two changes are integral to addressing the breakdowns in Ohio's justice system that resulted in the murder of Reagan Tokes. Brian Golsby was released into homelessness and with a GPS monitor that did not establish zones within which he was allowed to move. It was subsequently discovered that he committed at least six violent robberies, prior to his encounter with Reagan, all while being "monitored" by GPS. The state must do more to address the circumstances that led to this.

Senate Bill 202, along with an indefinite sentencing structure, is a necessary investment in the public's safety that will protect Ohioans from future victimization. We encourage your favorable consideration of the bill.

Thank you again. I would be happy to answer any questions.