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Committee on Health

Committee on Energy &  
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**Sponsor Testimony House Bill 425**  
**Government Oversight and Reform Committee**  
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Chairman Coley, Vice-Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and Members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 425, which would establish public record law for body-worn police camera videos.

Body-worn police cameras are a technology that are being used more by our law enforcement officers. Soon, many of our law enforcement departments will be using these cameras. While these cameras are important in providing transparency and accountability to all involved in a police encounter, they also raise important privacy concerns. These cameras will be going into places that police cameras have never gone before, leaving open the question of whether they are a public record or not. It is the Wild West right now with regards to whether a police worn body camera is a public record: some believe it is, some believe it is not.

This bill sets forth the laws that would govern the public record law for body-worn police camera videos. It says that, in general, the video is a public record. The bill then specifies the exceptions in which the video is not a public record. Some of these exceptions include if it is a confidential investigatory record, a video inside a private home or business, a video of a victim of a sex crime, personal healthcare information, and others. These exceptions were carefully crafted to protect the privacy of our citizens. This bill also acknowledges the transparency on both sides of the cameras by stating that in general the videos are a public record.

Body worn police cameras are very controversial. This bill does not require its use, nor does it ban it. This bill does not require it to be on at certain times, nor does it regulate when it should be off. This bill is setting forth public record law, a creature of the state, so that accountability and transparency can be preserved, while also protecting the privacy that is so sacred in our nation for our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 425. I would be happy to take any questions.