



Representative Hearcel F. Craig
House District 26

**Government Accountability and Oversight Reform Committee
House Bill 425 Sponsor Testimony
Representatives Hearcel F. Craig and Niraj J. Antani
November 14, 2018**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chairman Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you for providing us the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 425. I would also like to thank Representative Niraj Antani for his important work and deliberation as the joint sponsor on this important legislation.

This common sense legislation will provide local law enforcement agencies the guidelines they need to be transparent in their interactions, while protecting victims of violent crimes. That is the goal of this legislation, and I believe we have taken the steps to achieve that goal.

Great care was taken in this process, while other pieces of legislation dealing with body cameras have been heard in these great halls, none has gone through the vetting process this one has. I want to offer my sincere thanks to both Mayor Ginther and my partner in this effort, Representative Antani for taking the time they did to put together such a well-rounded and thorough piece of legislation.

As body cameras are becoming more common in our state, we must take the steps to ensure we are striking a balance between privacy and transparency and that is what we have done here today. This balance is needed not just here in the big city, but also in our rural areas as well. That is why it is my honor, on behalf of my community, to be a part of this bi-partisan effort, and I am committed to seeing this through.

Committees:

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and
Homeland Security - *Minority Ranking
Member*
Aging and Long Term Care
Financial Institutions and Urban Housing
Public Utilities

www.ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-8010
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253
Email: Rep26@ohiohouse.gov

While our political affiliations differ, our goal does not. Safety for everyone in this state is what matters, and when it matters, we come together and get it done.

Again, I would like to thank Representative Antani, for his due diligence and comprehensive work on this issue. As well as Mayor Ginter of the City of Columbus, for his oversight and thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Chairman Coley and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Reform Committee, thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on this important issue.