

Senate Bill 84 Sponsor Testimony
Government, Oversight and Reform Committee
November 28, 2018

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Shiavoni and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 84.

Senate Bill 84 will require law enforcement officers to collect data, and maintain information of their motor vehicle stops, questions, and delays for the purpose of determining if bias-based policing is a factor. This legislation will also require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to include biased-free policing tactics as a part of their basic training. The purpose of this legislation is to support bias-free police procedures and to create a quantifiable metric to determine if biased practices exist either by a department or an individual.

The Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board which was established by Governor Kasich approved a similar standard to tackle police bias in February 2017. The standard will require Ohio police departments to collect the race and gender of the people they pull over in traffic stops and take aside for questioning. The Advisory Board only creates a standard for police departments and has no established consequences, except for being published on a list if they do not cooperate in collecting data. Ohio should join the other 35 states which have adopted laws to track bias by police officers or train law enforcement on how to avoid bias-based policing.

Bias-based policing is the differential treatment of individuals in the context of rendering police service based solely on a suspect classification, such as race, ethnic background, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age or cultural background. Bias-based policing may also be defined as a police action based on an assumption or belief that any of the mentioned classifications have a tendency to participate or engage in criminal behavior.

Senate Bill 84 would require law enforcement agencies to collect information and provide it to the Attorney General where the information will be evaluated for patterns of discriminatory practices that stem from bias-based or status-based law enforcement tactics. If an agency is deemed to have practiced bias-based policing tactics or other status-based policing, as determined by the evaluated data; this legislation authorizes the Attorney General to seek legal action against a law enforcement agency served by an officer who commits bias-based policing during the application of their official duties.

Senate Bill 84 will reaffirm Ohio's commitment to unbiased policing in all encounters between officers and citizens, and to reinforce procedures that serve to maintain public confidence and trust through the provision of services in a fair and equitable fashion. This bill will ultimately

ensure the safety of all citizens by making officers fully cognizant of the extent to which suspect classification impacts their perceptions and behaviors on the job.

This concludes my testimony on Senate Bill 84 and I respectfully request your favorable passage. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee this completes my testimony, and I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

<http://www.sanduskyregister.com/story/201702270010>

<http://www.dispatch.com/news/20170217/daily-briefing-ohio-advisory-board-oks-bias-free-policing-standard>

<http://news.stanford.edu/2016/06/28/stanford-researchers-develop-new-statistical-test-shows-racial-profiling-police-traffic-stops/>