



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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Executive Director
House Bill 96
Written Proponent Testimony
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Chair Bacon, Vice-Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of House Bill 96, a to enhance the penalties for sexual imposition and disorderly conduct upon a third or subsequent conviction.

House Bill 96 is a response to a number of cases in which offenders have been convicted of sexual imposition multiple times and received the same penalty – a conviction for a first degree misdemeanor that carries up to 180 days in jail. In one case in Columbus, a man was recently arrested for the 10th time for acts that constituted sexual imposition. Repeat offenders like this are exhibiting a greater degree of criminality than someone who commits one offense and changes their ways. They are a greater risk to public safety and to victims. They should be subject to higher penalties and a stronger deterrent.

House Bill 96 would increase the penalty for someone convicted of sexual imposition a third or subsequent time by classifying the crime as a first degree misdemeanor subject to up to one year in jail. We believe this will improve the justice system's response to repeat sexual imposition offenders and protect Ohioans from their predatory behavior. We encourage your favorable consideration of House Bill 96.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written testimony.