



LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC
SAFETY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date _____

Name: Chief Richard Wallace

Address: 7149 Ridge Road
Cincinnati, OH 45237

Telephone: 513-531-2040

Organization Representing: Amberly Village Police/Fire

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 148

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____



Amberley Village
Department of Public Safety



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Richard L. Wallace, CLEE
Chief of Police/Fire

November 13, 2017

The Honorable Joe Uecker
Chairman
Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee
The Statehouse
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Uecker,

I write you this letter with great concern and frustration over Senate Bill 148. This bill, which seeks to amend sections 4501.181 and 5502.11 of the Ohio Revised Code, will cause unnecessary hardship on an already overworked and underappreciated police force.

Currently, officers generate one report per accident. This one report alone can consume valuable hours of an officer's shift. Hours which are better spent on the road protecting their community. If the proposed amendments were to be enacted, officers would spend entire shifts generating an accident report *per person* for just one accident. What if a bus at full capacity were involved in the accident? The officer's entire shift and then some would be consumed by paperwork filling out a form for each individual passenger. As a community with both school and metro buses, I shudder to think what this would mean for the unfortunate officer who reports to the scene of the accident. Morale would quickly plummet knowing what they're in for the rest of shift.

Taxpayers pay the ultimate price when local departments' overtime goes over budget in the end. Thousands of dollars in man hours simply to fill out paperwork rather than being put to good use patrolling the community and ensuring residents' safety. It is unconscionable to ask our residents for additional monies simply to pay officers to fill out paperwork.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my letter. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 148 and hope others like myself voice their opposition. Please contact me should you have further questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chief Richard L. Wallace".

Richard L. Wallace, CLEE
Police/Fire Chief
Amberley Village