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Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 87
Criminal Justice Committee
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Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and Members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 87, which would allow for the sealing of charges dismissed through intervention in lieu of conviction (ILC) in which the charges are associated with operating a vehicle under the influence.

Under HB 87, if an individual has their charges dismissed through intervention in lieu of conviction, and one of the charges was an OVI, it allows the other charges to be sealed. If they successfully complete this program, then one year after completion the charges can be dismissed, and a court may order that records pertaining to the charges dismissed under the plan be sealed. A full year must pass in order for the records to be sealed. The bill does not allow the OVI to be sealed.

Under current law, all charges that qualify for an ILC program can be dismissed after its completion, except those that are associated with an OVI. The Supreme Court of Ohio has called for this to be fixed. There is no point of ILC if the charges cannot be sealed.

This has become a workforce issue, where some who choose to pursue ILC believe their charges associated with the OVI will be able to be sealed, but alas, they are not able to be. Thus, applications for employment to get their life back on track are made much more difficult

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 87. I am happy to take any questions you may have.