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**House Criminal Justice Committee
Corey Jordan, Deputy Director of Policy and Legislation
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Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland and esteemed members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 217.

As many of you know, the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) is responsible for providing cutting edge lab services, 24/7 crime scene support, and for operating and maintaining the state's background check system. The Ohio Biometric Identification System (OBIS), serves as a valuable resource to Ohioans and employers by running hundreds of thousands of background checks each year.

It was recently brought to our attention by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that in order to be able to continue uninterrupted access to one of their federal databases—the Criminal History Record Information (CHRI)—four of Ohio's statutes need an update to maintain compliance with federal standards. The four statutes in question provide access to CHRI for long-term care ombudsman programs, direct-care positions, community-based long-term care service providers, and municipal tax administrators. It is important to note that while our office does grant these entities access to CHRI, this access is limited solely to requests made pursuant to a subpoena or other valid court order.

The primary reason the FBI believes Ohio is not in compliance with the federal requirements is because our current practice of limiting disclosure to these entities based solely on a subpoena or court order, is not codified in these statutes. While it may appear on its face that SB 217 modifies or restricts access to this data, it does not. SB 217 simply aligns current BCI practice with the Ohio Revised Code, which in turn, will give the FBI confidence that these statutes comply with federal guidelines for access to CHRI.

As it relates to the emergency clause contained in the bill, it goes without saying the safety and security of one of the state's critical infrastructure systems is at risk. Should BCI's background check system lose access to CHRI, every entity that relies upon CHRI for hiring processes will be at risk for hiring an individual for whom they do not have a complete criminal history. Your consideration and support of the emergency clause would be greatly appreciated.

I'd like to thank Senator Schaffer for agreeing to sponsor this important piece of legislation which will preserve the integrity of BCI's background check system. Thank you again Chairman LaRe and members of this committee for allowing me to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

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