



**Representative Jeff LaRe**  
**77<sup>th</sup> House District**

**Representative DJ Swearingen**  
**89<sup>th</sup> House District**

**House Joint Resolution 2 Sponsor Testimony**

Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today House Joint Resolution 2. The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would allow courts to consider such factors as public safety, an individual's criminal record, severity of the offense committed, and the likelihood of the individual returning to court when setting bail.

At the beginning of the year, The Ohio Supreme Court released their decision in the case of *DeBose v. McGuffey*. The majority ruled that a court cannot consider the risk to public safety in determining the financial level of bail, and only the risk of non-appearance should be considered.

We believe that the the ruling that was made on this court case will have dire consequences on the safety of our constituents. House Joint Resolution 2 would

ensure courts are required to consider specified factors that are necessary to ensure our communities remain safe from violent criminals. The resolution would place the question of the amendment to voters on this November's ballot.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Joint Resolution 2. We are happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.