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November 30, 2022

Good morning Chairman LaRe, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee. Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on House Bill 345 to create a human impact analysis for proposed changes to criminal justice laws.

HB 345 would require any legislation that amends criminal justice law to be thoroughly assessed to determine which areas of Ohio's population will be greatly or adversely affected. The bill would require the Director of the Legislative Service Commission to prepare a human impact statement for each bill or joint resolution pertaining to criminal justice law that is introduced within the General Assembly, including the following:

- Criminal prohibition,
- Criminal penalty,
- Imprisonment,
- Correctional supervision, or
- Rehabilitation of offenders.

Additionally, HB 345 would require LSC's Director to produce and prepare a human impact statement before the bill or joint resolution in question is recommended for passage and adoption by the House or Senate committee to which it was referred. The statement would also be updated and procured when either house in the General Assembly takes the bill/joint resolution for final consideration.

In Ohio and across the country, African Americans and minority groups are disproportionately overrepresented in the criminal justice process. Because of this, policymakers should be proactively aware of risks that legislation poses preceding policy implementation – not just assessing damages after the fact.

Having a Human Impact Analysis attached to proposed policy will be a start in not only addressing the racial disparities that exist within our communities, but would better guide legislators and policymaking through addressing the real impact and potential harm of legislation – rather than a “one size fits all” approach to policy. Connecticut, Iowa, and Oregon are several states that have already adopted similar legislation to analyze and measure this impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today and for your consideration of this bill; feel free to reach out to our office should you have any questions.