



OHIO PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

196 EAST STATE STREET • SUITE 200 • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 • TELEPHONE 614/221-1266 • FAX 614/221-0753 • WWW.OHIOPA.ORG

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Executive Director

November 15, 2022

The Honorable Scott Oelslager
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

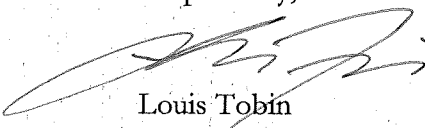
RE: House Bill 150 (Rural Practice Incentive)

Chairman Oelslager –

I want to thank you and the House Finance Committee for the amendment to House Bill 150 making assistant county prosecutors eligible for the rural practice incentive program. Prosecutors' offices across the state, like public defender offices and the defense bar, are struggling right now to recruit and retain lawyers. While this is a problem even for our metropolitan areas, it is most noticeable in the more rural areas of the state where prosecutors struggle to compete with the salary offers and other incentives that exist in our urban areas.

Across the state, elected prosecutors and their assistants work every day to keep communities safe, to secure justice for the victims of crime, to provide quality legal services to county government, and to uphold the rule of law. Because of a commitment to public service, they most often do this for less than they would make in private practice. Attracting and retaining high quality lawyers to do this work is essential to the fair administration of justice and the operation of county government in Ohio. The inclusion of prosecutors in the Rural Practice Incentive program will certainly help. We encourage the Committee's favorable consideration of the bill and hope to see it become law.

Respectfully,


Louis Tobin
Executive Director

Cc: House Finance Committee