



OHIO HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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Proponent Testimony House Bill 20

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Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 20. Known as the Ohio Computer Crimes Act, this legislation would provide critical updates to the Ohio Revised Code to solve prosecutorial blind spots regarding cybercrimes.

The Ohio Credit Union League is the state trade association representing the collective interests of Ohio's 225 credit unions and their 3.2 million members. With the "people helping people" philosophy at the heart of member-owned financial cooperatives, credit unions prioritize and defend the personal information entrusted to them by their members.

There are few issues that give credit unions more angst than a potential cyber-attack compromising member account information. As community-based financial institutions, credit unions possess sensitive member information and are continuously monitoring any malicious attempts to exploit that data through stringent federal regulations, such as the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. House Bill 20 strengthens Ohio's cybercrime laws in a few key ways by:

- Creating the crimes of electronic computer service interference, electronic data tampering, computer trespass, electronic data theft, and unauthorized data disclosure,
- Including protections for legal cyber activity, such as testing cyber-defense systems for vulnerabilities, and
- Permitting civil action against a defendant for up to two years upon discovery or violation, whichever is later.

The goal of this legislation is simple: to modernize the Ohio Revised Code to disincentivize emerging cybercrimes in our digital economy. House Bill 20 provides law enforcement and prosecutors with the necessary tools to prevent and penalize cybercrimes. While the perpetrator of a cyber-attack is not always identifiable, these individuals should be held accountable when possible. As Desco Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Portsmouth, Ohio with 25,000 members, experienced in 2016, current Ohio law falls short in both dissuading cybercriminals and providing restitution opportunities for victims of their criminal acts.

We would like to thank Representative Swearingen for reintroducing this legislation, which will provide credit unions, and other businesses, with piece of mind knowing that the cybercrime perpetrators will be held accountable.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to House Bill 20. I am happy to provide additional information or field questions supporting the Committee's work.