



HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – PROPONENT TESTIMONY, HB 67, 10.24.23

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity provide written testimony. My name is Hannah Kubbins and I am the Deputy Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity, Ohio. AFP, along with a series of partner organizations, is working to move our society more closely to one reflective of the Principles of Human Progress – the principles so eloquently captured in the Declaration of Independence – one of equal rights and mutual benefit, where everyone can live a life of meaning and succeed by benefiting others with limited government intervention.

AFP believes in an effective criminal justice system that protects people, preserves public safety, respects human dignity, restores victims, removes barriers to opportunity for people with criminal records, and ensures equal justice for all.

It's because of our vision for a fair criminal justice system that AFP-Ohio is a proponent of HB 67, sponsored by Representatives Seitz and Williams.

This bill is clear and common sense. The legislation offers offenders the opportunity to retroactively reduce their sentences for qualifying offenses. In other words, if a crime is classified as a felony at the time of sentencing, but is later reduced to a misdemeanor, the offender can petition to the sentencing court to request their sentence be reduced to the misdemeanor level.

The bill also tasks the Criminal Sentencing Commission with monitoring new laws passed by the General Assembly and advising public defenders around Ohio of laws that provides the opportunity for a prior offender to seek a reduced sentence.

AFP-Ohio thanks Representatives Seitz and Williams for the introduction of this bill, and we urge a “yes” vote from the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 67.