

Thank you to Chair Abrams, Vice-Chair Williams, ranking member Brown and representatives of the Criminal Justice Committee for giving me the opportunity today to testify on HB37.

I am Sheriff of Pickaway County, have been a law enforcement officer since 2004. One of the reasons I got into law enforcement was to get drunk drivers off of the roadway. In June of 1992 I graduated from Teays Valley High School in Ashville, Ohio. In August of that year, one of my classmates killed himself and two innocent people when he drove impaired and ran a stop sign.

Over my career, I have received three OVI enforcement awards for my efforts. I felt so strongly about this part of law enforcement that I became an SFST (Standardized Field Sobriety Test) instructor so I could share my knowledge and

experience with other law enforcement officers to keep their jurisdiction's roadways safe as well.

I am speaking today not only on behalf of Olivia's family and the Pickaway County loved ones she left behind, but all those across Ohio who have experienced the loss of a friend or loved one at the hands of an impaired driver. OVI is not just drunk driving, it encompasses impairment or intoxication by prescription and street drugs as well. During my law enforcement career, I have seen a drastic uptick in the number of narcotic related OVI's. The opioid epidemic has swept across our great state and are the cause of many traffic related crashes, injuries and deaths.

Opponents of this bill state that the jails would be overcrowded or would be a financial burden on those who are convicted. Apparently, they have forgotten the reason we have penalties for

violations of the law. The penalties are to make the people think twice about their decision to drink or use drugs, then get behind the wheel. When they have more to lose, maybe they will think twice before pulling out their car keys. In this day and age of ridesharing, it is extremely easy to find alternative transportation options rather than drive impaired.

Regarding what financial impact it would have on the drivers, I researched the price of an Uber from Cleveland Browns stadium to the Cincinnati Bengals stadium. For a luxury vehicle ride, the cost ranged from \$771 to \$1026. What is that compared to the cost of attorney fees, court costs and civil litigation not to mention the thought of taking someone else's life? My reason for this example is to show there are alternatives to driving impaired. There is no excuse for being on the roadway behind the wheel when you are intoxicated.

I am asking you to please support the passage of this legislation onto the rest of the statehouse and ultimately to the governor for signing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.