



Representative Jeff LaRe
Ohio's 73rd House District

Representative Jay Edwards
Ohio's 94th House District

House Bill 478 Sponsor Testimony

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice-Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 478. This piece of legislation aims to provide homeowners remedies against squatting and increases the penalties for squatting. This bill will directly protect Ohio property owners and close loopholes in Ohio law that squatters currently are able to take advantage of and under this bill, homeowners would have the right to request intervention from the county sheriff to remove squatters from their property.

Currently, squatting is not a major issue in the state of Ohio, and this bill is a preventive measure to ensure that it does not become a major issue in our state.

This bill sends the message that squatting will not be tolerated and property owners will have the right to protect their property.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 478. We are happy to answer any questions the Committee may have at this time.