



Adam Miller
State Representative

HB 441 Sponsor Testimony: House Criminal Justice Committee
May 14, 2024

Thank you Chair Abrams, Vice-Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee for allowing us to present to you a bill that will improve the lives of parole officers across our state and improve public safety.

I also want to thank my dear friend and joint sponsor for his leadership and work on this important bill.

HB 441 will ensure that our parole officers get the respect and equity they deserve for a workforce that is often forgotten as a critical part of our law enforcement workforce. It allows a parole officer to participate in the PERS law enforcement division, rather than regular PERS, for the member's future service.

Despite every day putting their lives on the line working with convicted criminals, they don't receive the same benefits and quite frankly, the respect as other law enforcement. Our system of justice and public safety relies on their work. We should treat them as such.

As we face workforce challenges across the board in our state, parole offices are no different. HB 441 will help increase recruitment and retention of parole officers by providing reasons for officers to not only want to work in parole but stay in parole and make it a career.

Our current path and policies are not sustainable. We have to take action now. Parole officers cannot sustain the amount of caseloads at a level that would properly supervise offenders.

These brave men and women put their lives on the line every day to protect Ohioans and it is time we give them the respect and dignity they deserve.

Lastly, this bill lifts of parole officers and no other law enforcement or public safety officer is negatively affected.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 441. We would be happy to answer any questions.