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**Brian Lorenz**  
State Representative

Good afternoon, Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee. Thank you for the chance to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 532. Time after time we are seeing our court officials being aggressively violated and recently an event along these lines occurred in the Delaware County municipal court, which spurred my desire to get this legislation drafted.

The term “Peace Officer” according to the Ohio Revised Code currently covers a few of the following positions: there are a couple obvious ones like, sheriffs, marshals, and police officers. However, there are a lot of other positions currently covered under the term “Peace Officer” for example, employees of the Department of Natural Resources whose duties pertain to law enforcement, or employees of the Department of Taxation. These positions are rightfully classified under “Peace Officer” in the Ohio Revised Code, however currently the Ohio Revised Code does not classify municipal court bailiffs nor probation officers under that same classification. For whatever reason, our bailiffs and our probation officers are not granted the same protections from assault or other potential dangers of their job, like various other positions in our government are.

House Bill 532 changes two parts of the Ohio Revised Code. Firstly, in section 2935.01 (B) this proposed bill would include bailiffs and probation officers under the term “Peace Officer” and it includes a small addition to Section 2935.01 (E), which provides a short

definition of probation officers. Municipal court bailiffs and probation officers should be granted the same protections, that their counterparts receive, and House Bill 532 addresses that concern.

The second part of House Bill 532 amends section 2903.13 of the Ohio Revised code by increasing the penalty of assault on a “Peace Officer” from a first-degree misdemeanor to a fifth-degree felony. By increasing the charges to a felony of the fifth-degree, the court may still impose a fine of up to \$5,000, which is over the normal cap of \$2,500 for fifth-degree felony charges. Additionally, if the person who committed the assault is a repeat offender, the charges would raise to a fourth-degree felony.

Thank you, Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey and members of the House Government Oversight Committee for hearing my testimony today and I am open to any questions.