

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Homeland Security Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Adrienne Hood and I live in Columbus, Ohio. I am not only a concerned community member but an impacted family member. I am the Vice Chair of Ohio Families Unite Against Police Brutality. I oppose House Bill 84 and urge you to vote no on this bill.

My son was killed by two plain clothes police officers in 2016 and I cannot begin to explain the detriment and pain that this loss has had on my family. There is a void that can never be filled, and we must live with that for the rest of our lives. Now because of a "crisis" in numbers there is consideration to lower the age for police officers which is harmful not only to the community but to the individuals themselves. I'm sure there are those that would argue that we allow our young men and women to sign up to fight for our country but have a limit on applying to be a police officer. Being a retired military veteran, I encourage you to take some time and check the numbers for those young people who suffer from PTSD (post-traumatic stress syndrome). Why would we want to subject more of our youth to the ranks of suffering. And to be honest if there was another way for many of the young people who are in the military to pay for college and survive, they most likely wouldn't have signed up.

I urge you to vote no on House Bill 84, it would be completely irresponsible to lower the age of a career that literally has the power of life and death at the barrel of a gun!

Thank you Chair for your time!

Adrienne Hood