

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 Chana Wiley and I am the sister of Jaron Thomas who was killed by Columbus Police Department during a mental health crisis in January 2017. I am a mother of four and have always worried about my kids and especially my teenage son with police interactions. My brother Jaron did what he was supposed to do during crisis and he himself called the police for help.

Eighteen year old brains have not developed enough to handle the decision-making required to be a police officer. It takes until 25 for the brain to fully mature. A lot of mental health disorders also surface between the ages of 18 and 24, which could impact that person's ability to serve. At 18, hormone changes and decision-making abilities aren't at a capacity that is sufficient enough to serve as a police officer. Younger adults can more easily be manipulated even by criminals because their brains are less developed and they don't have a lot of real life experiences yet.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on HB 84. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chana Wiley