

6.3.2024
HB 333 Written Testimony Only
Proponent Hearing

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 Bekky Baker and I am a program director at Ignite Peace and hold an MSW and have previously worked as a school social worker and in foster care. Ignite Peace works to create the promotion of a nonviolent society and that is why we are a proud member of the Ohio Police Reform Policy Table which brings together families impacted by police brutality, research organizations, lawyers, faith leaders, grassroots organizations, and other groups across Ohio dedicated to an equitable criminal legal system and the eradication of police brutality. I am writing today as a proponent of House Bill 333.

This bipartisan bill will improve overall safety, accountability, and police relationships within communities. Requiring quotas creates a metric of performance that is not tied to actual safety but rather on generating revenue and predisposes police to look for crimes where there are none. Quotas predispose officers to escalate situations to make an arrest or citation which engenders racial bias. Without the looming expectation of quotas, police officers can approach people with more open minds as a partner in community safety.

One study in the University of Chicago Press Journal (An Empirical Investigation of Gaming Responses to Explicit Performance Incentives), found that citation quotas have a lower clearance rate for violent crimes and in more extreme cases can cause officers to resort to malfeasance to meet quotas. Quotas also cause distrust between community members and police as the expectation is to see police heavily ticketing at the beginning and end of the month and pressure police to enforce low level violations. Police officers themselves are reported to dislike quotas. Please consider this bill as a step forward to ensuring true community safety.

I ask you to consider my written testimony as you vote on this bill and thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Bekky Baker
Program Director
Ignite Peace