

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 Rebecca Duran. I am the mother of Donovan Lewis who was murdered 8/30/2024 by the Columbus Police Department. I am here today to testify as a proponent for House Bill 333.

I am for HB 333. Specifically, I am against creating excuses for police to over police due to the pressure placed on them to meet quotas. In my son's murder a "task force" hastily went out to serve warrants without doing the proper research. I believe the taskforce was created to improve numbers, i.e. meet quotas on violent crimes. They responded to what they thought was a felony warrant which I am sure made them more cautious if not scared. The truth was it was a misdemeanor habias corpus (a bench warrant for no showing court). What is more upsetting is he did not even have ANY weapon in his home. This operation was done in the middle of the night further escalating the risk to the officers and clearly to my son!!!! People of color and low income neighborhoods are typically targeted to meet quotas; these same people experience higher rates of trauma due to policing. This increases the amount of unnecessary encounters with police and further damages the relationship between police and the community. I ask you to consider my testimony as you vote on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rebecca Duran