



**Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
Senate Bill 35 – Proponent Testimony
Senate Finance Committee**

Chair Dolan, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Heinz von Eckartsberg. I am the retired Chief of Police in Dublin, Ohio and formerly the assistant superintendent of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. I am representing the membership of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP). We appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 35.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police applauds the collaborative work of Senators Hoagland and O'Brien in working with law enforcement to craft this bill. We are especially pleased that SB 35 will create a dedicated fund with an appropriate amount of funding over the next two years to provide law enforcement officers in Ohio with a minimum of 24 hours, and up to a maximum of 40 hours of training. The funding model proposed in this bill also provides a sensible and common-sense approach to reimbursing Ohio Public Appointing Agencies while their officers, deputies and troopers are training.

Under current law, peace officers in Ohio are not required to complete any annual continuing professional training hours if funding is not made available by the state. With the passage of this bill, however, Ohioans can rest assured that their law enforcement officers will be receiving meaningful and consistent training each year.

Providing peace officers in Ohio with the opportunities for continuing professional training allows them to maintain a consistently high acumen of knowledge and skills. This training enables them to better live up to the expectations and needs of Ohioans everywhere and allows all peace officers to keep abreast of emerging trends in the profession and updates in the law and in de-escalation techniques.

Finally, The OACP is pleased to see the creation in this bill of the Law Enforcement Equipment Fund. As you know, this will provide funding for smaller law enforcement agencies throughout the state to purchase much-needed equipment that may be unavailable through any other means. Many of our member chiefs of police from smaller agencies will be able to put these funds to good use.

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.