

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for reading my testimony. My name is Lauren Durnwald, and I am a constituent of Montgomery County, OH. I write to you to strongly oppose Senate Bill 53 and urge you to vote no.

Lowering the minimum age for Ohioans to become police officers from 21 to 18 is irresponsible and dangerous. We know that the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain responsible for responding to decisions rationally and with good judgment, does not finish developing until the mid-to-late 20s. Simply put, 18 year olds lack the mental and emotional maturity to serve in a capacity where they are expected to respond to crises while carrying a firearm. To expect an 18 year old to be prepared to serve as a police officer is unfair to them and to the communities they are expected to serve. With police killings in the U.S. reaching a record high in 2022, the last thing we need is to place more guns in the hands of teenagers.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote **NO** on this dangerous bill.

Sincerely,
Lauren Durnwald