



**Mark Porter
Director, Ohio Department of Homeland Security
Department of Public Safety
Ohio Sunset Review Committee
May 21, 2024**

Good Afternoon Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer, and members of the Joint Sunset Review Committee, thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify to recommend the continuation of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) My name is Mark Porter, and I am the Director of the Ohio Department of Homeland Security.

The HSAC was formed in April 2006 under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5502: Department of Public Safety. 5502.011 with the intent to advise the director on homeland security, including homeland security funding efforts. The advisory council is inclusive of state and local government officials who have homeland security or emergency management responsibilities and who represent first responders.

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security required every state to establish and maintain a Unified Senior Committee (Homeland Security Advisory Council) as a condition of receiving federal funds from the agency.

HSAC leverages the experience, expertise, and statewide connections of its membership to provide the Director of Public Safety with independent, real-time advice to support decision making across the spectrum of homeland security operations.

Currently, HSAC meets quarterly to provide updates from around the state. The Executive Directors from Ohio Homeland Security, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and the Directors from state fusion centers all provide updates on incoming SARS and activities around the state that may be potential threats and the status of grants that the state is receiving. Additionally, we have expert speakers come in to talk about current events.

Under the HSAC Charter, the director shall appoint the members of the council, who shall serve without compensation. Any administrative work is provided by an existing employee of Ohio Homeland Security. No funding is required for the existence of HSAC.

Thank you for this opportunity and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.