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Sunset Review Committee

Ohio Attorney General's Office

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Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today. My name is Corey Jordan, and I am the Policy Director for Attorney General Dave Yost. The Attorney General is Ohio's Chief Law Enforcement Officer serving state and local law enforcement and victims of crime. Each of the office's three bodies under review today assist those functions, and we respectfully request that this committee reauthorize them in forthcoming legislation.

Crime Victims Assistance Advisory Council

The office's law enforcement function is not limited to investigating and making arrests. It also includes working with the victims of the crime to soften the impact their victimization has had on their lives. Our Crime Victim Services Section offers services to aid victims, trainings for professionals who work with victims, and crime prevention programs for Ohio's communities.

The Crime Victims Assistance Advisory Council serves to guide the Crime Victim Services Section in several areas. These include making recommendations on the use of the Crime Victim Compensation Fund and how to best fund the state's victim service programs. The Council meets twice each year, but has no full-time staff, and receives no funding from the state. The Council includes three ex-officio members: the Attorney General, a member of the Senate, and a member of the House of Representatives. The other 21 members are appointed by the Attorney General and are statutorily required to represent the following organizations and interests as follows:

- 1 from the Ohio Victim-Witness Association
- 3 members representing local programs, including at least 1 municipal program and 1 county program
- 1 representing elderly victim interests
- 1 representing the interests of those with mental illness
- An organization primarily helping domestic violence victims
- An organization primarily assisting sexual violence victims
- An agency providing services to those with developmental disabilities
- A statewide organization primarily providing victims no-cost legal representation
- A victim service disability agency
- A statewide forensic nursing organization
- 1 probation officer or employee of the department
- 1 county prosecutor
- 1 city law director
- 1 sheriff
- 1 police officer
- 1 common pleas judge
- 1 municipal or county judge
- 2 private citizens



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Continuing Education Committee

Ohio's Sheriffs are statutorily required to complete 16 hours of continuing education each year. The Continuing Education Committee's sole focus is determining the types of training our Sheriffs need to perform their duties. The 7 members of the Committee are recommended by the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) and appointed by the Attorney General. The Attorney General's office does not directly fund or provide staff support for the committee, and the required hours of training are provided by the BSSA.

Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission

The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OCIC) was created by the legislature in 1986 as a way for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to collaborate on investigations into organized criminal enterprises across jurisdictional boundaries. By its authorizing statute, the Commission is bipartisan and largely Governor-appointed, including the appointment of two county sheriffs, two chiefs of police, and two county prosecutors. The Attorney General serves as the Chair of the Commission.

OCIC carries out its work through the authorization of crime specific task forces, which range from human trafficking to drug interdiction to vehicle theft. OCIC provides administrative, technical, and prosecutorial support to the task forces formed under its umbrella. Since its inception OCIC has authorized 192 task forces, with participation from over 299 law enforcement agencies. 62 of those task forces were created in the last 5 years.

Last year alone, task forces made 1,095 arrests, seized \$6.5 million in cash and nearly \$66 million in drugs. They received 901 human trafficking tips, and 655 victims were rescued or referred to services. All these investigations are supported by 12 staff positions and operating expenses of \$2.5 million.

The great work of OCIC is highlighted by the fact that our partners in the legislature have recently expressed an interest in forming new statutory task forces under OCIC to combat organized retail crime and catalytic converter theft.

Conclusion

Each of these statutory bodies play an important role within the Attorney General's office and I once again respectfully request that this committee reauthorize them so they can continue their work. Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer, and members of the committee, thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony. I would be happy to answer questions you may have.