

## **Representative Mike Carey (OH-15) – Remarks for Member Day at Judiciary Committee**

Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Jordan, for allowing me the opportunity to highlight an important piece of legislation before the Judiciary Committee.

I have always been and will continue to be extremely grateful for our men and women in law enforcement who put their lives on the line to ensure the safety of our communities. In return, we must do everything we can to keep them safe.

In the wake of the misguided Defund the Police movement, law enforcement agencies around the country are facing financial strain, coupled with low recruitment rates and an increased number of early retirements and resignations. This is why I joined my colleagues, Congressman Landsman, Congresswoman Sykes, and Congressman Miller in introducing the bipartisan Enhancing COPS Hiring Program Grants for Local Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 3376).

Our legislation would expand the U.S. Department of Justice's COPS Hiring Program, to allow local law enforcement agencies to use existing program grants for both retention bonuses and recruitment. It would help tackle administrative costs as well as cost strains that come with the current annual application process, by allowing grant applications to be in effect for five years rather than one year.

This bill is the right thing to do for our men and women in law enforcement. It will help fix staffing struggles, retention of trained members, and provide these local law enforcement agencies with the resources they are lacking. These changes will ultimately help law enforcement deter and respond to both criminal activity and emergencies, keeping our communities safer.

Our bill has been endorsed by seven large law enforcement organizations, including the National Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the National Association of Police Organizations.

I urge my colleagues to support the law enforcement agencies by holding a vote on H.R. 3376, the Enhancing COPS Hiring Program Grants for Local Law Enforcement Act in the coming weeks.