

Thank you to Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Nadler, and the entire Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 3376, the Bipartisan Enhancing COPS Hiring Program Grants for Local Law Enforcement Act.

I am honored to be joined today by my fellow Ohioans and original cosponsors, Congressman Carey of Columbus, Congressman Miller of Rocky River, and Congresswoman Strong Sykes of Akron.

We all have the same goal: alleviating staffing shortages for the law enforcement agencies that keep our children and families safe.

In my time at Cincinnati City Hall, I saw firsthand how local law enforcement agencies struggled with recruitment and retention. Each one of the five years I served on City Council, I voted to increase the police budget to alleviate this burden.

Law enforcement agencies in small towns and municipalities work within their already tight budgets for the resources to apply for federal funds each year. And even in larger municipalities, the number one issue I hear about is the difficulty in recruiting and retaining good officers.

Now, as members of Congress, we can tackle these problems head-on. The bill we've collaborated on will allow local law enforcement agencies the flexibility to spend federal COPS grants on recruitment and retention bonuses. It would also modify the program to allow grant applications to be valid for five years, instead of the current one year, to reduce the costs and administrative burdens faced by law enforcement agencies through the annual application process.

The Enhancing COPS Hiring Program Grants for Local Law Enforcement Act has been endorsed by the National Fraternal Order of Police, the

National Association of Police Organizations, the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association, and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

We appreciate your consideration of H.R. 3376. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions. Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to testify today.