



National Police Association
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October 31, 2025

The Honorable Jim Thomas, Chair
Judiciary Committee, The Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
(Via email)

Rep. Thomas and Members of the Ohio House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in support of the Larry Henderson Act (H.B. 372)**, introduced by Reps. Cindy Abrams and Phil Plummer.

When a police officer is killed in the line of duty, their families, loved ones and colleagues experience unimaginable grief. This gaping wound gets ripped open when an offender becomes eligible for parole.

The Larry Henderson Act will help prevent these scenarios by eliminating the possibility of parole for an adult convicted of the aggravated murder of a police officer.

As you know, the penalty in Ohio for killing a police officer with intent currently carries the death penalty -which has been indefinitely suspended- or a term of life imprisonment, for which the Ohio Parole Board may consider granting parole in certain circumstances.

The Larry Henderson Act will require juries and courts to consider either the death penalty or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. It would also extend these protections to other first responders, prosecutors, and military members.

This bill is critical to addressing the growing violence targeting law enforcement officers, who work tirelessly to protect our communities and uphold the Constitution. Officers are now at an increased risk of being killed, ambushed, or assaulted simply for wearing a badge. Last year alone, 85,730 officers were targeted in the United States, setting a 10-year record, per the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](https://www.fbi.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/10/24/fbi-releases-national-law-enforcement-officer-targeting-report) (FBI).

The Larry Henderson Act will help ensure that the full force of the law is applied.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Fitzsimmons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Fitzsimmons, Legislative Director
National Police Association

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