



National Police Association  
8710 Bash Street #501692  
Indianapolis, IN 46250  
NationalPolice.org

June 8, 2026

The Honorable Nathan Manning, Chair  
Judiciary Committee, The Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(Submitted via email)

Chair Manning and Members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee,

The National Police Association is grateful for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in support of the Larry Henderson Act**. This bill was initially introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives as H.B. 372 by Reps. Cindy Abrams and Phil Plummer; and since passing the House, it has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration.

Per Ohio state law, intentionally killing a police officer carries the death penalty, or life imprisonment with the possibility of parole. Given that Ohio has an ongoing moratorium on executions, an individual charged with the murder of an officer may be able to avoid the full penalty.

This is a betrayal to the memories of fallen officers and to their families and colleagues, who mourn and must revisit their grief at parole hearings. It's also demoralizing to the approximately 26 thousand Ohio law enforcement officers who serve their communities and uphold the Constitution.

There's more at stake, however. Law enforcement officers must now navigate a landscape where they risk being killed, ambushed, or assaulted in rising numbers. *Simply for wearing a badge*. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently reported 90,178 officer assaults in 2025, representing the highest rate in a decade. The year prior, the FBI reported that 85,730 officers were targeted in the United States, also setting a 10-year record.

The *Larry Henderson Act* will require juries and courts to consider either the death penalty or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. This provision is necessary to address the historic violence targeting law enforcement officers and to honor the sacrifices of those who have fallen. Passing this bill is a solid way to support the men and women who stand between us and chaos.

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