



## OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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**House Bill 84 Lower Minimum Police Age  
Proponent Testimony  
March 22, 2023  
House Homeland Security Committee**

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Homeland Security Committee, my name is Kyle Brooks and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ohio Township Association (OTA). On behalf of the OTA, I would like to offer our support of House Bill 84, which would lower the age for an original appointment of a police officer from 21 to 18.

In 2019, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) released data from a survey they conducted. The IACP survey found recruitment challenges are widespread and affects law enforcement agencies of all types, sizes, and locations across the country. As noted in their report, if these agencies are unable to replace those who have retired or have left the profession with new recruits, it will significantly increase the strain on existing public safety services.

House Bill 84 gives communities the ability to address any gaps in recruitment in the critical area of public safety. By lowering the age requirement, police departments can expand their recruitment pool of candidates, and develop new officers for the needs of their community. It should be mentioned that other emergency service personnel currently have the 18 years of age requirement.

It is important to note that House Bill 84 is a permissive change. The OTA is generally supportive of legislation of a permissive nature, as it provides townships with the flexibility to address issues in their communities. House Bill 84 will allow a township with a police department to recruit additional candidates to support a more robust police force.

The OTA urges support of HB 84 and we appreciate Representatives Demetriou, and Williams for sponsoring this legislation. Thank you for your consideration of our position. If you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Director of Governmental Affairs