



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ohio Chamber Supports Bail Reform Legislation

COLUMBUS - The Ohio Chamber of Commerce today submitted written proponent testimony in support of both House Bill 607 and House Joint Resolution 2. The legislation and proposed constitutional amendment were created to ensure that public safety is considered by judges when determining bail. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to read the full testimony submitted by the Ohio Chamber.

“The safety of our communities remains fundamental to our state’s ability to attract and retain businesses and that makes it a priority for the Ohio Chamber,” said Ohio Chamber President and CEO Steve Stivers in the written testimony.

This legislation is in direct response to the January 4, 2022 Ohio Supreme Court decision in *DuBose v. McGuffey*, which held that “public safety is not a consideration with respect to the financial conditions of bail.” The court instead found that the defendant’s bail amount was excessive because “it was more than the amount reasonably necessary to ensure DuBose’s appearance in court.”

While both measures seek to supersede the Ohio Supreme Court decision in *DuBose v. McGuffey*, each varies in purpose. House Bill 607 amends Ohio law to add public safety as a factor in setting bail. House Joint Resolution 2 creates a ballot initiative for Ohio voters to amend Ohio’s Constitution to allow the courts to use factors such as public safety, a person’s criminal record, the likelihood a person will return to court and the seriousness of an offense when determining bail.

“We strongly encourage this committee, the entire General Assembly and the DeWine Administration to restore the consideration of public safety as a matter of setting bail by

enacting both HB 607 and HJR 2,” said Stivers in the written testimony. “Empowering Ohio’s voters to affirm this in Ohio’s Constitution will send a clear mandate to the Ohio Supreme Court.”

The Ohio Chamber is the state’s leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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