

As Adopted by the Senate

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

S. C. R. No. 16

Senator Gavarone

**Cosponsors: Senators Coley, Blessing, Brenner, Burke, Dolan, Eklund, Hackett,
Hoagland, Hottinger, Huffman, M., Huffman, S., Johnson, Lehner, Manning,
McColley, Obhof, O'Brien, Peterson, Roegner, Rulli, Schaffer, Wilson**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To call for justice for victims of excessive force by 1
police and declare opposition to efforts to defund law 2
enforcement. 3

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, A free society depends on the rule of law, which 4
is the foundation for the preservation of public order, peace, 5
and individual rights; and 6

WHEREAS, The just and unbiased enforcement of the rule of 7
law and the protection of the people is an essential function of 8
government at the local, state, and federal levels; and 9

WHEREAS, The law enforcement profession is inherently 10
dangerous, and law enforcement officers risk their own health 11
and safety in the course of their employment; and 12

WHEREAS, In 2019, eighty-nine federal, state, local, and 13
tribal law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty; 14
and 15

WHEREAS, Law enforcement officers are entrusted by the 16

public to uphold the law; and 17

WHEREAS, Law enforcement officers who abuse their 18
positions, engage in corruption, employ excessive force, or 19
exhibit bias betray the public trust and undermine the rule of 20
law; and 21

WHEREAS, The death or injury of any person due to excessive 22
force by police is a horrific act that violates the public trust 23
and is inconsistent with the values and conduct expected of law 24
enforcement officers; and 25

WHEREAS, Understaffed law enforcement agencies and 26
undertrained law enforcement officers increase the risk of 27
encounters that result in the use of force, including 28
unjustifiable or excessive force; and 29

WHEREAS, Defunding law enforcement would leave law 30
enforcement agencies understaffed and their officers 31
undertrained, while also increasing the risk of violent crime to 32
the communities of Ohio, especially vulnerable communities; now 33
therefore be it 34

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General 35
Assembly of the State of Ohio, call for justice for victims of 36
excessive police force and oppose efforts to defund law 37
enforcement; and be it further 38

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 39
authenticated copies of this resolution to the members of the 40
Ohio Congressional Delegation and to the news media of Ohio. 41