



Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

Senate Judiciary Committee
Shawn Welch
Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 2
January 26, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to submit proponent testimony for Senate Bill 2 on behalf of the Ohio Judicial Conference. I am Shawn Welch, Deputy Legislative Counsel of the Judicial Conference. I serve as the legislative liaison for our Domestic Relations, Juvenile, and Probate Law & Procedure Committees.

The Judicial Conference supports S.B. 2's goals of improving the competency restoration process, increasing access to state psychiatric hospital beds for Ohioans in need of mental health treatment, and facilitating communication between the criminal and probate courts. The OJC raised concerns about an earlier version of this legislation last General Assembly. Our previous testimony reflects the complex nature of the issues spanning the civil and criminal courts and mental health community. The OJC's concerns have been alleviated, and we support the bill's substantial improvements over the last two years. We do not have a position on the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) provisions in the bill.

We thank Senator Gavarone for her work on this bill, specifically for listening to our suggestions and incorporating them into this updated version of the legislation. We hope to continue working with the legislature on issues involving mental health and the courts throughout this General Assembly.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.