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Obhof Commends Work of Criminal Justice Recodification Committee

COLUMBUS—The following statement can be attributed to Ohio Senate President [Larry Obhof](#) (R-Medina) with regards to the conclusion of work by the Criminal Justice Recodification Committee:

"I commend the Criminal Justice Recodification Committee for their thoughtful and thorough work reviewing Ohio's extensive criminal code, which hasn't received such a careful study since 1974.

How this group of experts from varying political viewpoints worked together over the last two years speaks volumes about their commitment to pursuing reforms within Ohio's criminal justice system. They spent countless hours reviewing current law and drafting recommendations for how we prosecute, sentence, incarcerate and rehabilitate criminal offenders in this state.

I'd like to especially thank Auglaize County Common Pleas Judge Fred Pepple and Ohio Public Defender Tim Young for guiding the committee's work. Both brought considerable experience and valuable insight to this process and courageously took on the monumental challenge we presented to them.

What those reforms will translate into is still ahead of us, and the Ohio Senate will carefully examine their recommendations as we consider how to make our system more effective and fair. We share the Committee's goals of ensuring the safety of Ohio's citizens; simplifying and clarifying a complex code; making sure our tax dollars are used efficiently; and focusing on ways to rehabilitate offenders in hopes of breaking the cycle of crime.

Ohio will continue to be part of the national conversation to make our criminal justice system more fair and more efficient."

Senators John Eklund (R-Munson Township) and Matt Huffman (R-Lima), both members of the committee, added these comments:

"The Criminal Justice Recodification Committee has done a thoughtful and thorough

review of Ohio's criminal code, bringing to bear perspectives of purposeful professionals from all aspects of the criminal justice system. Modernizing our criminal laws to address our ever-changing society is critical to assuring that we remain a nation and state dedicated to justice for all and the safety of our citizens. I have been proud to be a part of that process, and I look forward to the legislature's careful consideration of the committee's recommendations."

—Senator John Eklund

"I am happy to have worked with Judge Peple and others on the important work of this committee. Through many meetings and a lot of hard work, this group has created a document that will put Ohio on the cutting edge of criminal justice, rehabilitation and corrections issues."

—Senator Matt Huffman

The committee today approved its recommendations to the General Assembly. Those recommendations will be made available for public viewing at <http://ocjrc.legislature.ohio.gov>.

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Senator Obhof represents the 22nd Ohio Senate District, which encompasses all of Medina, Ashland and Richland counties as well as portions of Holmes county. He currently serves as President of the Ohio Senate. For more information, please visit www.ohiosenate.gov/obhof. For a high resolution photo of Senator Obhof, click [here](#).

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