

The Honorable Steve Marino  
Chairman, Commerce and Tourism Committee  
S-788 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Marino and members of the Commerce and Tourism Committee:

As County Corrections Deputy, public safety is my number one priority. Law enforcement takes on a variety of roles, jobs and responsibilities, but the commitment to service and the safety of our public runs deep within the core of all law enforcement officers.

I write to urge the Commerce and Tourism Committee to support House Bill 5623 sponsored by Rep. Jack O'Malley. House Bill 5623 would include county corrections officers in the definition of public police. As a result of a rogue court opinion, county corrections officers are not currently eligible to utilize PA 312. Whether a deputy sheriff works on the road or in the jail they are critical service personnel and should be eligible for the same PA 312 protections.

As a corrections deputy, this is important from a recruitment and retention standpoint in our jails. All law enforcement agencies are struggling to keep existing employees and find new talent. This is another tool for the retention and recruitment of corrections officers in Michigan.

Finally, as we have seen the past several months during this COVID-19 pandemic, deputies that work in jails have one of the most difficult jobs. Now is the time to fix this statute and include corrections officers in PA 312.

Respectfully,

Kristi Fortine  
Grand Traverse County  
104<sup>th</sup> House District  
37<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Cc: POAM  
Rep. Larry Inman  
Sen. Wayne Schmidt