March 27, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine
Office of the Governor
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

RE-COVID-19 – Early Release of Offenders from ORDC

Governor DeWine,

On behalf of the largest organization of law enforcement officers in Ohio, we would like to commend you on your leadership over our great state during this historic time. Our members want you to know that we have been and will continue to serve and protect all Ohioans during this crisis.

We are writing specifically today to express our concern about attempts to use this COVID-19 crisis to advocate for a mass release of prisoners from Ohio’s correctional system. The FOP certainly understands the need for the steps you have already taken to protect those who are incarcerated. We support the precautions you have put in place. Still, we believe that criminal history, the nature of the offense, public safety, and the rights of victims must all be considered before any mass release of inmates. We urge careful consideration and thoughtful discussion involving all of the public safety stakeholders during any review of a plan that could place Ohioans at additional risk.

We stand ready to discuss this issue further and pledge our support during this crisis for your efforts to continue to keep Ohio safe.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
Gary Wolse
State President