



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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Testimony on House Bill 278

House Criminal Justice Committee

October 17, 2017

Chairman Manning and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Weinman and I am here today to give proponent testimony on House Bill (HB) 278 regarding vehicular assault on a police officer on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Inc. (FOP). I am a retired Columbus police officer, who currently serves as the director of government affairs for the FOP. I am proud to represent over 26,000 full-time and retired law enforcement professionals who risk their lives on a daily basis protecting our communities. The FOP of Ohio represents municipal law enforcement officers, county deputies, township officers, and officers from most state law enforcement agencies (including OSP, OIU, ODNR, BCI and others).

The FOP would like to thank Representative's Kelly and Patton for their joint sponsorship of HB 278. Currently, failure to move over for an officer is only a minor misdemeanor. An M-1 is created by HB 278 prohibiting a person from negligently causing serious physical harm to a law enforcement officer with a motor vehicle.

Data from Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) and the Officer Down Memorial Page (ODMP) shows that a more substantial deterrent is needed to quell the instances where officers are struck by motor vehicles. From 2013 through 2017, BWC has had 127 injury claims from officers after being struck by a vehicle. This year alone, two law enforcement officers have lost their lives after being struck by a vehicle.

Over the spring and summer, the FOP conducted a radio, billboard, and social media campaign to remind drivers to move over. We feel strongly that HB 278 is a much needed measure in the face of growing injuries and death to law enforcement officers by those who strike officers with motor vehicles.

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