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TO: Members of the House State and Local Government

FROM: The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

DATE: March 14, 2017

Re: House Bill 44: First Responders' Appreciation Day

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As a coalition of Ohio's fire service leadership, the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association offers our unanimous support for House Bill 44, designating May 24<sup>th</sup> as "First Responders' Appreciation Day". Emergency 911 call takers, dispatchers, law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians are collectively among the first people to begin to restore order in the wake of accidents, natural disasters, or terrorist attacks.

"First Responders' Appreciation Day" recognizes that each emergency service agency and discipline indistinguishably operates as a unified response entity that serves the interests of the public. This specific distinction is notable from other days of distinction. Ohio's fire and emergency service leadership appreciates the recognition extended to our partners in public service.

The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association joins your effort in requesting the Ohio Senate to join the House in passing House Bill 44 enacting section 5.261 of the Ohio Revised. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss our industry further, please feel free to contact the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association.