



State Rep. Kent Smith
8th District

Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Sponsor Testimony on HB 270
October 25, 2017

Chairman Green, Vice Chairman Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to deliver sponsor testimony in support of House Bill 270, which would name a four-mile stretch of Interstate 271 in the memory of Beachwood Fire Captain, Michael Palumbo.

Since 1992, Captain Michael Louis Palumbo Jr. was a firefighter with the Beachwood Fire Department, which is in House District 8. In Beachwood, he was a Fire Captain, SWAT medic, part of the hazmat team and member of the honor guard. He worked up until his health no longer permitted him to do so. Before joining the Beachwood Fire Department, he worked for his hometown fire department in Wickliffe, in Representative Rogers' district.

Captain Palumbo was the inspiration behind Senate Bill 27, passed in the 131st General Assembly, which allows Ohio firefighters, who are disabled by cancer, the opportunity to file for workers compensation, essentially classifying cancer as an occupational hazard. Senate Bill 27, signed into law by the Governor in January of this year, helps to minimize financial barriers to firefighter families as a result of cancer.

Captain Michael Palumbo passed away on May 24, 2017. This legislation has the support of the Ohio Municipal League and many of our colleagues from both sides of the isle. Comparable legislation has been introduced in the Senate (SB 161). Rep. Rogers and I urge the favorable passage of HB 270; we greatly appreciate the opportunity to stand before this committee and we would welcome any questions at this time.