



## FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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### Testimony on HB 623

### House Transportation and Public Safety Committee

June 6, 2018

Chairman Green and members of the committee,

My name is Brian Steel and I'm here today to give proponent testimony to House Bill 623 on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio (FOP). Currently, I'm a sergeant with the largest police agency in Ohio, while also serving as a legislative agent for the FOP. I am proud to represent over 25,000 full time law enforcement professionals that risk their lives on a daily basis protecting members of our communities.

The FOP strongly supports HB 623, and thanks Representatives Gonzales and Carfagna along with the co-sponsors.

HB 623 allows a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County to be named as the "Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway."

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Police Officer Eric Joering and Police Officer Anthony Morelli of the Westerville Division of Police, and FOP members, were shot and killed when they responded to a 911 hang up call.

As officers arrived at the home they made contact with the residents of the apartment and let inside. When they walked into the apartment a 30-year-old male subject opened fire on them, mortally wounding Officer Joering and Officer Morelli. Despite their wounds, both officers were able to return fire and wounded the subject.

Tragically Officer Joering died at the scene. Officer Morelli was transported to a local hospital where he died a short time later.

HB 623 would further honor the memory of these two fine fallen Ohio law enforcement officers. On behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony to HB 623. I will be happy to address any questions that you may have at this time.