

Good morning Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers and members of the House Ways and Means Committee. My name is Daniel Desmond and I am a full-time firefighter for the City of Toledo. I am writing you today to provide testimony on behalf of over twelve-thousand members of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters. I also have the privilege of serving as a Trustee for the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, where I represent all active firefighters. I am also Vice President of Toledo Firefighters Local 92, which has endured its own tragedy when we lost two members directly in the line of duty.

I have been involved in State legislative affairs for quite some time, and certainly get a chance to interact with many elected officials. The reception I receive, is that of respect for the position of Firefighter. It is humbling when someone tells you they really appreciate what you do for a living. As firefighters we are often put into harm's way, which means some are called to make the ultimate sacrifice. Through grace and providence that fate has escaped me, but others have not been as fortunate. Ultimately the casual, social, and sometimes professional conversations come down to an elected official making a gracious comment, "if there is anything I (we) can do for the fire service, let us know."

Now I stand here before you today with an opportunity that can help the families of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Having witnessed the aftermath of the fire that claimed Toledo Firefighters Machcinski and Dickman, I realize, HB 513 cannot balance the heartbreak from the devastation of losing a loved one. It is, however, something we, as in all of society, can offer as a gesture. The men and women who have chosen to walk into harm's way, and responded to their last alarm, deserve HB 513.

Thank you for your time and consideration.