

NORTHERN OHIO
FIRE FIGHTERS
ASSOCIATION

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

President • Scott Maynor *Vice President* • Pat Lovejoy

Secretary/Treasurer • Brian Dunlap

Board of Trustees; Mike Franko • Ken Stout • George Ward • Kevin Bednarski

September 12, 2017

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the **opportunity to testify in support of HB 38 (Greenspan) - The Public Safety and Military Protection Act.**

My name is Scott Maynor and I am President of the Northern Ohio Fire Fighters (NOFF.)

NOFF is made up of over 20 local fire departments representing active and retired firefighters in five different counties (Cuyahoga, Summit, Lake, Wayne, and Portage Counties.)

Our organization has a history of service and knows the importance of working to move this State forward as members have served on the State Fire Commission, statewide task forces, and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Board. We have been involved in regionalization projects, fire life safety programs with fire dampers, and pension reform. Giving and being active in the community is very important to NOFF. Since NOFF's founding, the organization has understood the importance of charity fund raising as NOFF has raised:

Over \$1 million dollars for MetroHealth Hospital Burn Unit (*The MetroHealth Trauma Center is one of the busiest in the nation*)

Over \$2 million dollars for Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC)

Over \$3 million dollars for Muscular Dystrophy (MDA)

As you have heard, current law only includes state law enforcement officers being protected specifically under the Ohio Revised Code when a purposeful, intentional and pre-meditated attack of violence occurs.

NOFF Testimony HB 38

HB 38 will now include other public safety forces such as firefighters, EMTs and members of the military to be covered under state law when the intentional and pre-meditated charge of murder – aggravated murder occurs. The legislation provides strong deterrents to individuals who seek to harm fire fighters that are simply doing their job. The legislation will:

- Expand the offense of aggravated murder to include purposely causing the death of a first responder or military member whom the offender knows is a first responder or military member and it was the offender's specific purpose to kill a first responder or military member.
- Require a mandatory prison term of three to 11 years for an attempt to commit aggravated murder.
- Require a mandatory prison term of three to 11 years for felonious assault against a first responder or military member if the offender specifically targeted the victim for being a first responder or military member and the victim suffered serious physical harm.
- Increase the penalty for felonious assault against a first responder or military member from a second degree felony, absent any specification, to a first degree felony.

As a fire fighter, our goal is to save lives and in turn arrive home safely to our families. HB 38 allows another protection to those that serve. That is why I respectfully request your support of HB 38.

Thank you for your time and review of this important issue.



Scott Maynor
President
Northern Ohio Fire Fighters
PO Box 301053
Cleveland, Ohio 44130
Email: smaynor@noff.org
Ph: 216-883-6633