



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

MATTHEW J. DETEMPLE, Executive Director
MARISA MYERS, Director of Governmental Affairs
6500 Taylor Road, Suite A • Blacklick, Ohio 43004
(614) 863-0045 • Fax (614) 863-9751
www.OhioTownships.org

**2018-2019
Officers**

Connie Fink, President
2645 Fawn Lane
Zanesville, OH 43701

Tim Lynch, 1st Vice President
5614 N. County Road 11
Tiffin, OH 44883

Ed Huff Jr., 2nd Vice President
P.O. Box 306
Ansonia, OH 45303

Scott Fabian, Secretary-Treasurer
126 Montgomery Lane
Mingo Junction, OH 43938

**2018-2019
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Lynda Bowers
6440 Ryan Road
Medina, OH 44256

Dale Dietrich
38415 Rock Camp Road
New Matamoras, OH 45767

Bob Entenmann
1400 Washington N. Road
Mansfield, OH 44903

Daniel Frederick
49 Main Street
Milan, OH 44846

Ed Good
56080 Matts Lane
Shadyside, OH 43947

Ellen Homan
402 Pine Road
Fl. Recovery, OH 45846

Larry Johns
09290 Glynwood Road
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Marissa Lautzenheiser
9091 Sandville Road N.E.
Mineral City, OH 44656

Carl Mangun
3063 Lustre Road N.E.
Carrollton, OH 44615

Ron Miller
4161 Bethel Road
Bucyrus, OH 44820

Sandra Reichley
17540 State Route 664 S.
Logan, OH 43138

Gary Salmon
7350 Brookville Road
Oxford, OH 45056

Tom Shay
686 Kale Adams Road
Leavittsburg, OH 44430

Robert Trowbridge
7777 County Road F
Delta, OH 43515

Steven Woolf
8803 Baltimore-Phillipsburg Road
Brookville, OH 45309

John C. Zizka
9177 Asbury Road
Mantua, OH 44255

October 21, 2019

The Honorable Thomas E. Brinkman, Chair
Insurance Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 330 Firefighter Cancer Claims

Dear Chairman Brinkman:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing to express our support for House Bill 330, which would charge firefighter cancer claim compensation and benefits to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Surplus Fund Account within the State Insurance Fund rather than to a state fund employer's experience.

Townships across Ohio value their first responders, including firefighters – many of whom serve as volunteers in our communities. The OTA appreciated the work that the bill sponsor and the General Assembly did on Senate Bill 27 that established this policy change and the subsequent changes thereafter.

The OTA's fundamental concern has been the potential cost of these claims for townships. To give an example, one township in Ohio is facing two firefighter cancer claims and ran numbers on what its premiums are likely to be if the claims go through. The township is a member of a Group Rating Program and its individual premium is approximately \$108,000 per year. If both claims are allowed, the Township would be removed from Group and its projected individual premium would be \$227,000 – an increase of 110 percent.

Simply put, townships may not be able to absorb the cost of these claims in their already tight budgets. By charging these claims to the Surplus Fund, many of these concerns are alleviated.

The OTA supports the updates in House Bill 330 and encourages your favorable consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me or Marisa Myers, OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeTemple
Executive Director

MJD:mm

cc: Rep. Thomas F. Patton