



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

222 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4611  
(614) 224-5700 Fax (614) 224-5775  
www.fopohio.org



House Insurance Committee

January 28, 2020

Testimony on House Bill 308

*President*  
**GARY WOLSKE**  
Garfield Heights PD

*Vice President*  
**JASON PAPPAS**  
Columbus PD

*Secretary*  
**ERIC LEHNHART**  
BCI&I

*Treasurer*  
**GREG TOYEAS**  
Cincinnati PD

*2nd Vice President*  
**DERRIC McDONALD**  
Dayton PD

*Sergeant at Arms*  
**BILL SARINGER**  
North Olmsted PD

*Immediate Past President*  
**JAY McDONALD**  
Marion PD

*District Trustees*  
*First*  
**TROY MINEARD**  
Akron PD

*Second*  
**MARC LAUTENSCHLEGER**  
Dover PD

*Third*  
**JIM FITSKO**  
Marion PD

*Fourth*  
**TOM PORTER**  
Zanesville PD

*Fifth*  
**MIKE GALBRAITH**  
Dayton PD

*Sixth*  
**MIKE WATKINS**  
Lima PD

*Seventh*  
**DAMIAN GLASER**  
Cleveland PD

*Eighth*  
**STEVE FIORITTO**  
Lakewood PD

*Ninth*  
**JON HALUSEK**  
Cincinnati PD

*Tenth*  
**AARON BRAMEL**  
Ohio Veterans Services

*Eleventh*  
**TRAVIS PARKER**  
Columbus PD

*National Trustee*  
**SHAUN LAIRD**  
Columbus PD

*Chief Counsel*  
**GWEN CALLENDER**

Chair Brinkman, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Boggs, and members of the committee,

I am Mike Weinman, a retired Columbus police officer who now serves as director of government affairs for the FOP. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the 25,000 active and retired FOP members from every corner of Ohio to urge you to support HB 308 that would treat post-traumatic stress disorder like any other on the job injury.

The FOP firmly asks you to vote in favor of requiring the Bureau of Workers Compensation to cover post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for first responders without an accompanying injury. The FOP has been fighting for PTSD to be covered by BWC for nearly nine years. Bills have passed the Senate, and recently it was made part of the BWC budget bill this session only to be stripped out. Thirty States now require their worker's comp systems to cover PTSD for first responders. It is critically important to provide coverage, through BWC, for first responders who experience PTSD. Failing to treat PTSD often leads to death through suicide and creates on the job issues such as avoidance and hypersensitivity. Once identified, PTSD can be treated effectively, allowing first responders to continue their careers serving our great state.

The bill is limited to first responders and one mental health condition: PTSD. We are sure you have heard arguments that this change in law will open floodgates of claims bankrupting BWC. BWC is more than solvent; they have given billions in rebates over the last several years and are currently implementing further rate cuts for public employers. It should be noted that the fiscal impact dropped from nearly \$200M a year to \$44M a year under new leadership at the BWC.

Early retirements are not the goal of the FOP. Getting treatment for PTSD is the goal. As the VA has shown, and as other proponents have testified, PTSD is treatable, and those who suffer from it can continue to have productive careers. However, ignoring PTSD destroys families and lives. The organization Blue H.E.L.P., has recorded seven Ohio police officer suicides in 2019 alone. Your support of HB 308 will be rewarded in the officers you will save and the families that will be preserved.

Alabama HB 187 covers spouses signed 5/30/2019

Alaska None found

Arizona HB 2501 HB 2438 Signed in 2015

Arkansas None found

California SB 542-Signed October of 2019

Colorado HB 1229-Signed 6/5/2017

Connecticut SB 164 Public act 19-17 Effective 7/1/2019

Delaware None found

District of Columbia Found several House bills concerning first responders but none specific to PTSD none appear to have gone past the House.

Florida SB 376-Approved by Governor 3/27/2018

Georgia HB 703 Signed 5/7/2018

Hawaii HB 1778-Enacted

Idaho SB 1028 signed 3/12/2019

Illinois SB 1862 Effective 8/17/2019

Indiana SB 290 Signed 3/25/2018

Iowa- None found

Kansas-None found

Kentucky HB 40 Introduced January of 2019

Louisiana SB 107 Effective 8/1/2019

Maine HP 597 LD 848 Signed 7/24/2017

Maryland-None found

Massachusetts SB 2633 Signed 1/16/2019

Michigan HB 4473 Introduced and enrolled in 2019

Minnesota HF 3873 Senate SF 3420 Approved 5/20/2018

Mississippi SB 28-35 Dead

Missouri None found

Montana SB 160 Enrolled

Nebraska LB 780 signed 4/14/2010

Nevada Assembly Bill 492 Governor approved 6/3/2019

New Hampshire SB 5089-dead SB 553 signed to study-6/12/1018 SB 59 signed 7/17/2019

New Jersey SB 716-Passed Senate 2018 Assembly No. 1741

New Mexico HB 324 Enacted-Signed 4/2/2019

New York Unknown may be part of budget

North Carolina HB 622 Passed House 5/4/2019 passed 1<sup>st</sup> Senate reading 5/6/2019

North Dakota None found but may be covered elsewhere.

Ohio

Oklahoma HB 2271 Engrossed 3/18/2019

Oregon HB 2814 SB507 signed 6/13/2019

Pennsylvania SB 1363 HB 432 Removed from table on 10/22/2019

Rhode Island All workers covered.

South Carolina S 429 2015-2016 Companion 3699 status unknown

South Dakota None found

Tennessee HB 1510 SB 1797 Signed 5/21/2018

Texas HB 1983-Signed June of 2017

Utah HB 209-As of 2018 had not passed House

Vermont HB 197 Passed in 2017

Virginia HB 1804 SB 1030 HB 1706 Approved 3/18/2019

Washington HB 1655 SB 6214 signed 3/23/2018

West Virginia SB 291 Enrolled

Wisconsin Introduced, Status unknown.

Wyoming None found.