



PREMIER • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE

**TO:** Members of the House Insurance Committee  
**FROM:** Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association  
**DATE:** June 3, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** House Bill 303 Proponent Testimony

---

The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association is fully supportive of House Bill 330 and Rep. Patton's continuous passion for helping first responders. Our organization worked alongside him, other legislative leaders, and first responder organizations to pass Senate Bill 27 in the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. Since the passage of that bill, OFCA has been made aware of numerous instances where claims have been contested and significantly delayed, going against the intentions of Senate Bill 27.

As chiefs, we are in the unique position of ensuring the safety and wellness of the men and women in our departments while also maintaining a balanced budget to support our public safety efforts. However, our organization is a proponent of the presumptive cancer coverage within BWC recognizing that our firefighters are putting their own lives at risk by being exposed to high levels of toxic chemicals which, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, raises their risk for developing cancer by 14%.

We believe House Bill 330 is a beneficial and necessary way to help address the fear of local governments that a BWC cancer claim will increase their premiums. Paying this claim out of the BWC surplus fund and avoiding a premium increase will alleviate these concerns and will ultimately help first responders battling cancer get help much quicker. In turn, this provides the first responder and their family with some financial assistance in the wake of a devastating diagnosis.

On behalf of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association we respectfully request your support on House Bill 330.