

BROTHERS HELPING BROTHERS

2005 HIGH KNOLL DR, DAYTON, OHIO 45414



Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Ways & Means Committee,

I am Nick Magoteaux, the founder and co-executive director of the Ohio nonprofit Brothers Helping Brothers. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 143 the Ohio Volunteer First Responders Tax Credit. I originally brought this idea to Representative Keller after visiting with many volunteer firefighters throughout Ohio and the nation.

Ohio, just like the rest of the nation, is facing a volunteer crisis. My hope is that this bill, in a small way, will give people an incentive to volunteer in their community. Now I want to make this clear, this bill will not solve the volunteer crisis in our state, but this should be a good starting point to making our communities stronger.

I strongly urge this committee and all members of the House to visit their local fire departments to listen to not only the fire chiefs and/or police chiefs, but the front line firefighters/peace officers at these departments. Ohio is facing a potential firefighter shortage. Many departments rely on volunteer and part-time help to make ends meet, but this pool of people is getting smaller. Without intervention, our fire departments could be in deep trouble.

My nonprofit allows me to meet and visit with many firefighters and fire departments all over our state and the nation. I can tell you that many of our departments are hurting for funding and personnel. I would hope that this bill would make a small impact on this problem and more so make an impact on this committee and the members of the House. Many may not realize the struggles of our local fire departments in our state, but I hope that this bill will open your eyes to these problems our local fire agencies face.

Thank you for your time and support of this bill and thank you again for this opportunity to speak before you about this important bill. Now I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Respectfully,

Nick Magoteaux
Founder ~ Co-Executive Director ~ President
Brothers Helping Brothers