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House Ways and Means Committee

Testimony on House Bill 17

October 22, 2019

Chairman Merrin, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Weinman, director of government affairs, for the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police. Thank you for allowing me to give proponent testimony on HB 17. Today, I am testifying on behalf of more than 25,000 active and retired members of the FOP from across Ohio.

HB 17 increases the homestead exemption for the spouses of police officers who have died in the line of duty. The exemption is significant to the survivors of officers who find their lives shattered by the death of their loved one. In a flash, these men and women's lives will be forever changed, by the significant financial burden placed upon them.

The FOP respectfully requests that the committee favorably report HB 17. Many of you stepped up and passed SB 296 in the last general assembly, which made significant benefit changes for survivors. Again, the general assembly can show support to the men and women who suffer a tragic loss and give officers the peace of mind that their communities will be there for their loved ones.