



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 Ways and Means Committee

Testimony on House Bill 17

October 22, 2019

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
DERRICK 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

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.