



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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House Bill 308
Written Proponent Testimony
May 20, 2020

Chairman Schuring, Vice-Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the General Government and Agency Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 308 to make certain first responders in Ohio eligible for workers compensation and benefits for a diagnosis of PTSD, regardless of whether there is an accompanying physical injury. House Bill 308 is an important piece of legislation for the well-being of our first responders and for the safety of Ohioans.

As the committee is aware, our law enforcement officers and other first responders place their lives on the line every day to protect the public. In doing so, they frequently experience danger and witness violence, serious injury, and even death. A single exposure to many of these events would be enough to give many of our fellow citizens PTSD, and first responders are exposed to them over and over again year after year. Not only is it in our first responders' best interest, it is in Ohioans' best interest for us to provide relief to those on the front lines in the form of detection and treatment for these issues. A first responder who is healthy, both physically and mentally, is better able to serve and protect the public.

Our Association commends Representative Patton for his advocacy on this important issue, and would like to thank this Committee again for its attention to the matter. We encourage your favorable review and report on the bill.