



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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October 28, 2019

The Honorable Kristina Roegner
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senate
1 Capitol Square, Room 41
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Roegner,

The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio represents over 24,000 full time and retired law enforcement professionals. We strongly support Senate Bill 190, which provides economic relief to law enforcement officers across this state.

We thank Senator Schaffer for introducing this bill and his continued efforts towards its passage.

Many law enforcement officers across the state protect and serve our communities for wages that do not allow for the purchase of needed protective equipment—which is often expensive. Officers should not have to choose between buying gear that makes our job safer or buying necessities for our families.

The streets have changed as has the equipment needed to perform our job. The devastating opiate scourge requires officers to be equipped with puncture-resistant gloves to prevent needlesticks and masks from preventing fentanyl exposure, just being one example.

Necessary safety equipment also includes more traditional items like ballistic vests—which officers depend upon as we rush toward danger, tourniquets—which we use to stop victims from bleeding out, and reflective gear to warn approaching motorists of hazards. A ballistic vest alone costs \$300 to \$700 (depending on the level of protection) and needs to be replaced every five years. This equipment is a significant financial burden on officers, and SB 190 helps our officers with these needed purchases.

Passage of SB 190 will make officers safer and our communities safer.

Sincerely,

Kyle Erdeljac
Member, Legislative Committee