



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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October 31, 2019

The Honorable Kristina Roegner, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: SB 190 Police Safety Gear Tax Credit

Dear Chair Roegner:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 190, which would authorize a nonrefundable income tax credit of up to \$500 for amounts spent by a law enforcement officer to purchase safety protection gear.

With budgets that are tight, townships provide their police officers with necessary equipment, but often cannot afford any extras. Townships simply do not have the resources to purchase the most up-to-date equipment or other suggested items. If officers want alternative equipment, they have to purchase it out of pocket. Senate Bill 190 would provide financial relief to an officer that chooses to purchase equipment to be used while performing their official law enforcement duties.

Townships also rely heavily on volunteers for safety services – fire, EMS, and police. Unfortunately, the increased cost of training and equipment is discouraging many individuals from volunteer service. Generally, tax relief would provide an incentive for volunteers in safety service.

Senate Bill 190 would serve as an additional resource for townships and their employees. For this reason, the OTA supports the concepts in SB 190 and encourages your favorable consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me or Marisa Myers, OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeTemple
Executive Director

MJD:mm
cc: Sen. Schaffer