



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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December 5, 2016

The Honorable Andrew Brenner
Chairman, Committee on Education
77 South High St
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. Brenner,

The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Inc. has a membership of over 25,000 full-time active and retired law enforcement professionals. The FOP of Ohio includes municipal law enforcement officers, county deputies, township officers, and officers from most state law enforcement agencies (including BCI, ODNR, OIU, OSP and others).

After careful consideration the FOP is throwing its support to House Bill (HB) 498. The bill is a well thought out approach to dealing with threats made against students, teachers, and school facilities. Depending on the threat, a large police response is necessary often times from multiple agencies. This results in officers being pulled off other dispatched runs and routine patrols leaving officers unable to protect and serve their communities. With this in mind, picture multiple threats over a period of time to the same facility, students and teachers.

We believe HB 498 gives needed authority to school leadership to address the issue while allowing for due process and seeking, and obtaining, resources for an offender who may need them. Therefore, the FOP supports HB 498 and respectfully asks for the committees favorable reporting.

Sincerely,

Michael Weinman, Director
Government Affairs