

**Testimony Before the
House Aging and Long Term Care Committee
On House Bill 362
Staff Lieutenant Matt Them**

October 25, 2017

Chairman Arndt, Vice Chair Pelanda, Ranking Minority Member Howse, and members of the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Matt Them and I am currently a staff lieutenant in the highway patrol. I am also one of the active member representatives of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System (HPRS) board of trustees.

I am speaking to express my full support of House Bill 362. The changes in this bill which include restoring the minimum age of retirement to 52 for new hires, calculation of off-duty disability benefits, and changes in survivor benefits are needed to provide additional solvency to our system. As you may know, HPRS was forced to change several of its actuarial assumptions last year which significantly increased our unfunded liabilities. This legislation will help offset the negative impact of these assumption changes. According to HPRS's actuary, these changes reduce the amortization period of our unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years.

I realize no one wants to see any change in benefits, myself included, but this legislation is in the best interest of the retirement system and its long-term solvency. Thus, in the long-run, a solvent and well-funded system will benefit all of us individually. I ask for your support in passing this much-needed legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.