



Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters

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Michael P. Taylor, President

Mark Horton, Secretary/Treasurer

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is William Quinn; I am the Director of Operations for the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters (OAPFF) representing over 12,000 full-time fire and emergency medical services providers across Ohio.

In addition to my role in the OAPFF, I recently retired from the City of Hamilton Fire Department with 31 years of service as a fire fighter (Paramedic Supervisor) and I am a proud veteran of the United States Army, having served with the 1/504 PIR, 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg.

I come before you today in support of HB 38. HB 38 expands the offense of aggravated murder to include first responders and members of the military; and expands the definition of law enforcement officers to include federal law enforcement officers. HB 38 also increases the penalty for felonious assault of first responders, members of the military or law enforcement officers.

America's Fire Fighters, EMS providers, Law Enforcement Officers and U.S. Military members stand on the front lines every day, both foreign and domestic, to protect our citizens and provide the peace of mind we have come to expect in this great country. Our members swear an oath to do so, and we uphold that oath every day.

Unfortunately, there are some in our society today who have taken to targeting violence against first responders, the military and law enforcement. HB 38 provides a higher degree of deterrent to protect those who protect us.

On behalf of the men and women of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighter, I ask for your support of HB 38.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.