



Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters

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Michael P. Taylor, President

William E. Quinn, Secretary/Treasurer

James P. Carney, Director of Governmental Affairs

Chairman Ryan, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 296.

My name is Jim Carney, I am a fulltime Fire Captain/ Paramedic and I serve as the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters (OAPFF). The OAPFF represents over 12,000 active fire and emergency medical service providers in over 260 communities across our great state.

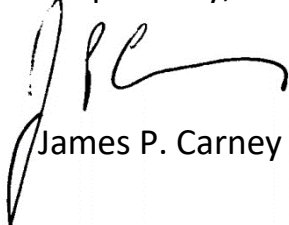
I am writing you today to ask for your support of SB 296. SB 296 will revise and modernize the Ohio Public Safety Officer's Death Benefit Fund. These changes will help the families of our first responders who are killed in the line of duty when they need it most.

Ohio's fire fighters, EMS providers, law enforcement officers and other public safety officers protect our citizens. Our members swear an oath to do so, and we uphold that oath every day.

Unfortunately, these jobs have inherent risks and our members sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice. SB 296 will provide some additional peace of mind, knowing that in the wake of tragedy our families will not also face financial ruin.

On behalf of the members of the OAPFF, I again urge the committee to support SB 296. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,



James P. Carney