



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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Testimony on SB 296

House Finance Committee

December 12, 2018

Chairman Ryan, Vice Chair Lipps and Ranking member Cera,

My name is Jay McDonald and I am an active law enforcement officer with the City of Marion. I am also the Immediate Past President of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, and currently the chair of the legislative committee. I am writing on behalf of the 25,000 active and retired law enforcement officers who make up the FOP of Ohio in support of SB 296.

This is important legislation that provides a much needed update to the benefits that the families of those killed in the line duty receive. SB 296 will improve the financial security of the families who have given so much. You have heard testimony from family members giving you much better insight than I can into how this bill will impact them. I will focus on how it will impact the thousands of active law enforcement officers and firefighters who are serving our communities each and every day.

Passing this legislation will provide reassurance to our first responders that their family will be taken care of should the worst happen. It shows then that this state understands the dangers of the profession and have planned ahead to take care of our spouses and children. It helps with the worries that all first responders have about making sure our loved ones will not suffer financially should we be asked to make that ultimate sacrifice.

This bill will tell all firefighters and law enforcement officers that Ohio has their back and the FOP of Ohio believes it should be passed without delay.