



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

222 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4611
(614) 224-5700 Fax (614) 224-5775
www.fopohio.org



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Senate Finance Committee

Testimony on SB 296

May 22, 2018

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning and Ranking member Skindell,

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

I am pleased that this effort has the support of the Senate President Obhof and the bill sponsors Senators LaRose and Hottinger.

This is important legislation that provides a much needed update to the benefits that the families of those killed in the line duty receive. This bill will improve the financial security of the families who have given so much. There are families here to testify who will provide you with a much better insight into how this bill will impact them. I will focus my testimony 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 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.

The FOP of Ohio appreciates your time and consideration of SB 296 and I will attempt to answer any questions you may have.