



## FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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### **Testimony on Substitute House Bill 38**

#### **Senate Judiciary Committee**

April 10, 2018

Chairman Bacon and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Weinman and I am here today to give proponent testimony on HB 38 regarding aggravated murder and felonious assaults on first responders on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Inc. (FOP). I am a retired Columbus police officer, who currently serves as the director of government affairs for the FOP. I am proud to represent over 26,000 full-time and retired law enforcement professionals who risk their lives on a daily basis protecting our communities. The FOP of Ohio represents municipal law enforcement officers, county deputies, township officers, and officers from most state law enforcement agencies (including OSP, OIU, ODNR, BCI and others).

Over the past month, arrests have been made as a result of threats made against two active Columbus police officers. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, a suspect was arrested after he phoned Columbus asking for an officer's name. Once he was given the name, he said "Tell him I'm going to kill him and his wife and his children. I'm going to murder him". In a separate incident Columbus police arrested an individual who took to Twitter and Facebook on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> threatening to do serious bodily harm to an officer. These officers are covered by existing law, which deals with threats to active officers. However, what should happen if these threats are made the day after the officers should retire? Do criminals care if the officer is active or retired? Does their hatred end on the day of retirement?

This is the issue that HB 38 seeks to address. HB 38 bestows the same protection against threats for retired officers that active officers currently possess. One cannot deny that threats against officers occur. And we all know of someone, directly or indirectly, who can be all consumed with rage and hatred, looking to even some imaginary score. Therefore, the FOP respectfully urges the committee to favorably report HB 38.

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