



Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters

140 E Town St., Suite 1225; Columbus OH 43215

Michael P. Taylor, President

William E. Quinn, Secretary/Treasurer

September 18, 2017

Good morning Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veteran's Affairs Committee. My name is Barbara Burrill and I am writing you today to provide testimony on behalf of over twelve-thousand members of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters; and my late husband Mark Horton.

Mark served the OAPFF as Secretary-Treasurer for over thirteen years. He routinely attended committee hearings here in the statehouse, and many of you probably met him. Mark was a firefighter/EMT with the Elyria fire department for 29 years, proudly protecting the community he loved.

Always looking for ways to serve the public and ensure public safety, Mark was elected Sheffield Township Trustee in November of 2015. Mark dedicated his life to serving the public and his fellow firefighters and EMS providers.

Mark and I were married for 33 years. We loved to travel together, SCUBA dive and spend time on the Lake Erie islands. Mark announced the local high school football games, and was dedicated to rescue animals. All that changed on February 12 this year when Mark was killed in a head on collision by a distracted driver.

Distracted driving is a well-known hazard to our families and friends. The proliferation of electronic devices may keep us all more connected, they may allow us to grab our fifteen minutes of fame, or provide a sense of security for loved ones away from home.

But when used while operating a vehicle these devices become deadly weapons. We see reports of families suffering the loss or injury of a loved one or loved ones due to distracted driving nearly every day.

HB 95 is a step in the right direction to deter and educate drivers about the hazards of driving while distracted. On behalf of the OAPFF, myself and Mark we ask for your support of HB 95.

Thank you for your time and consideration.