



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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Senate Ways and Means Committee

Testimony on Amended House Bill 17

September 22, 2020

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Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Weinman, director of government affairs for the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police. Thank you for allowing me to give proponent testimony on Am. HB 17. Today, I am testifying on behalf of more than 25,000 active and retired members of the FOP from across Ohio.

Am. HB 17 increases the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for spouses of police officers who have died in the line of duty. The exemption is significant to the survivors of officers who find their lives shattered by the death of their loved one. In a flash, a substantial loss of income can occur to these survivors and place a significant financial burden upon them.

The FOP respectfully requests that the committee favorably report Am. HB 17. Many of you stepped up and passed SB 296 in the last general assembly, making significant benefit changes for survivors. Again, the general assembly can show support to the men and women who suffer a tragic loss and give officers the peace of mind that their communities will be there for their loved ones.