



CITY OF SIDNEY

Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Administration Division
Chad A. Hollinger; Fire Chief

May 23, 2022

The Honorable Brett Hillyer, Chair
The Honorable Diane Grendell, Vice Chair
The Honorable Tavia Galonski, Ranking Member
Civil Justice Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: HB 472

Dear Chairman Hillyer and Civil Justice Committee Members:

I am writing to express my opposition to H.B. 472 which would remove protections for public safety personnel responding to emergencies under ORC 2744.02. That section of the Ohio Revised Code currently provides public safety personnel with immunity for emergency vehicle operations during an emergency response unless their conduct is willful, wanton, or reckless.

It is imperative that public safety personnel respond to emergencies (fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement) as expeditiously and safely as possible. There is significant data and numerous examples that demonstrate negative outcomes when emergency responses are delayed.

By removing immunity protections that have long been afforded to our public safety personnel during emergency response, response times would most certainly be impacted. This would have a significant, negative effect on property losses during a fire event, survivability in a medical and traumatic emergency, and would without doubt hamper the ability of law enforcement to stop criminal activity.

Our communities need public safety personnel to arrive as quickly as possible to minimize the impacts of fire, medical issues, trauma, and criminal activity. This is both well-known and well-documented.

I respectfully request that you join me in opposing H.B. 472 and maintain the current protections our public safety personnel require to quickly and efficiently respond to emergencies.

Respectfully,

Chad A. Hollinger
Fire Chief