



# GERMAN TOWNSHIP

3940 Lawrenceville Drive Springfield, Ohio 45504

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March 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State & Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 564. I'm Rodney Kaffenbarger, Trustee of German Township in Clark County.

This bill would allow additional hours for scheduling part-time firefighters and EMS personnel, thus allowing for better emergency coverage for our township and its residents.

Currently part-time employees are allowed to work an annual maximum of 1500 hours. This equates to roughly 28 hours a week. The proposed bill would increase the weekly limit to 38 hours.

Our township Fire and EMS providers work to furnish twenty-four hour protection for German Township. Being limited to 1500 hours annually creates a hardship for the fire department. Limiting the hours for these employees creates an obstacle in scheduling crews for around the clock shifts.

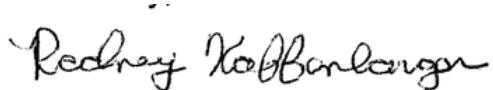
We currently have 8 full-time Fire/EMS employees, so it is important to utilize part-time employees to staff some of the shifts. This becomes increasingly difficult when the employee is limited to 1500 hours. In addition it is harder to recruit new people for open positions since the onset of covid. Many have left the occupation as well.

Ninety-two percent of our emergency calls are EMS in origin. According to a survey conducted by the American Ambulance Association, the turnover among paramedics and EMTs ranges from 20 to 30 percent annually, resulting in an unsustainable 100 percent turnover every four years.

The survey of 258 EMS organizations across the country found that in 2020, nearly a third of the workforce left their EMS Organizations after less than a year. Eleven percent left within the first three months. Some are leaving to take jobs in healthcare facilities. This same survey shows that no state is immune to these problems.

This bill would allow departments to better utilize the staff they currently have by extending the maximum number of hours they are allowed to work. We see this as a very proactive approach for helping our first responders do their job in protecting our citizens and their property. As a trustee I personally endorse the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney Kaffenbarger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.

Rodney Kaffenbarger  
Trustee  
German Township (Clark County)