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March 28, 2022

To Members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Daren Cotter and I am one of the Township Trustees at Moorefield Township in Clark County, Ohio. I am writing you today on behalf of our township to express support for HB 564.

The last couple of years have certainly caused many obstacles to our Fire and EMS department's scheduling and employee availability. The fact that this bill would allow additional hours for our employees to work would greatly benefit both our department and the residents we serve in our community.

We currently employ 26 part-time employees and two full-time employees in the Fire/EMS Department. One of those full time positions was recently created at the end of 2021 because of staffing issues. 90% of staff works a full-time job with another department. Many of our employees work for the City of Springfield and because they face similar issues, these employees find that they are often mandatorily kept over or mandatorily given additional shifts/hours. Scenarios like this have a snowball effect on us. With staffing shortages across the board, we rely on the few that don't work outside of our department to cover the open shifts. The 1500 maximum annual allowed hours adds up quickly for these employees and we often find ourselves scrambling and relying on our full-time employees to work overtime to cover as this department is a 24/7 staffed facility.

Moorefield Township cannot afford to pay benefits to all personnel so adding additional full-time employees is not possible. The passage of this bill would significantly aid in covering shifts and help our operation to run smoothly and most importantly, efficiently, so our community doesn't suffer.

The Moorefield Township Trustees fully endorse this proposed legislation and appreciate the proactive approach this bill offers.

Respecfully,

Daren J. Cotter, Trustee

Moorefield Township (Clark County)