



**Senator Bob Peterson – 17<sup>th</sup> District**

**Senate Health Committee  
Senate Bill 278 – Sponsor Testimony  
March 2, 2022**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for hearing sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 278, which will designate the first full week of February as “Ohio Burn Awareness Week.” The week will serve as remembrance for all who have lost their lives or been injured as a result of a burn.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1.1 million burn injuries require medical attention each year in the United States. Of the 1.1 million burn injuries, up to 10,000 people in the U.S. die every year of burn-related infections.<sup>1</sup> Although these statistics are alarming, the majority of these injuries are preventable.

Hunter Young, a constituent of mine who lives in Pickaway County, reached out to me with a horrific story about his bad car accident where his car caught on fire. He spent 25 days on the burn floor unit relearning how to walk and healing his burns located on his feet, ankles, knees, and fingers. Mr. Young inspired the creation of this bill to remember the trauma suffered by burn victims and their loved ones, while showing our support for them. He and other burn victims are examples of the amazing strength of the human spirit and our ability to overcome extremely difficult circumstances.

S.B. 278 will align Ohio with the American Burn Association’s National Burn Awareness Week, observed the first full week in February as well. The American Burn Association promotes and supports research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention, and is dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by burn injury.<sup>2</sup> The Association provides burn prevention resources and fact sheets surrounding safety in the home, home oxygen, cooking safety, and home heating.

In summary, S.B. 278 will not only establish an Ohio Burn Awareness Week, but will help spread the word on the dangers that exist and how to decrease the potential risk. Chairman Huffman, for these reasons I urge favorable consideration of Senate Bill 278, and thank you for this opportunity to give sponsor testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> *Burns Fact Sheet*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Retrieved March 1, 2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/masstrauma/factsheets/public/burns.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> American Burn Association. (2017, May 10). *Who we are*. American Burn Association. Retrieved March 1, 2022, from <https://ameriburn.org/who-we-are/>