



Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association

www.NOFF.org

March 16, 2022

Chairman Huffman, Vice-Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, on behalf of the Northern Ohio Fire Fighters, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit written **proponent testimony on SB 278** Designating Ohio Burn Awareness Week.

The Northern Ohio Fire Fighters (NOFF) is made up of over 20 local fire departments representing active and retired firefighters in six different counties including (Cuyahoga, Lake, Summit, Wayne, Geauga and Medina Counties.)

Our organization has a history of service and knows the importance of working to move this State forward as members have served on the State Fire Commission, statewide task forces, and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Board. We have been involved in regionalization projects, fire life safety programs with fire dampers, and pension reform.

Giving and being active in the community is also very important to NOFF, the organization and its members have raised considerable funding for various charities over the years.

Our members see the impacts of burns every day. It is so important to provide needed, specialized services to burn patients that NOFF aids the MetroHealth Burn Unit and Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC). ACBC holds Camp Phoenix for children ages 5-17 that have been impacted by burns. The camp gives patients the chance to meet other burn survivors and enjoy fun outdoors. The Northern Ohio Fire Fighters have supported this camp for many years through volunteering and other means. Thus, this issue as you can see is a very important to burn victims, their families, firefighters, and the public. This is why we support SB 278.

NOFF would like to thank Senator Peterson for introducing SB 278. Our members appreciate his efforts and strongly urge the committee to favorably pass this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sam Gmetro

President, Northern Ohio Fire Fighters