



Fairfield County Fire Chiefs

3245 Havensport Rd ◊ Carroll, OH 43112 Phone: 740.756.4644

The Honorable Tim Schaffer
1 Capitol Square, Senate Building, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Senator Schaffer, Members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee,

My name is Brad Smith and I represent the Fairfield County Fire Chiefs. I currently serve as the Fire Chief of Greenfield Township Fire Department in Carroll, Ohio. The Fairfield County Fire Chiefs represent 14 departments. On behalf of those departments, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 299.

Over the last several years, our townships have struggled with staffing. The communities we serve don't realize we have limits on the definition of part time employees, townships are unable to offer more hours due to Ohio's part time work hour limit. As a result of this, the departments must look to hire more staff and subsequently purchase additional equipment, which increases the expenses for the fire department.

We have spoken to fire departments across Ohio, and we have concluded that we all are faced with staffing issues. Due to our current constraints we are forced to allow staffing to be reduced/unstaffed, which will be detrimental to patient care, personal property, life safety of our citizens, and crew safety/integrity which also falls under our 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives that we all follow. With reduced staffing patients will not receive the same level of care, or delayed care due to second/third runs in progress where we rely on mutual aid to assist.

It is for the reasons stated above that the Fairfield County Fire Chiefs, Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, and Ohio Township Association are in support of Senate Bill 299. We ask that you consider Senate Bill 299.

Sincerely,

Brad Smith

Bradley S. Smith, Fire Chief
On Behalf of the Fairfield County Fire Chiefs