



**OHIO ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS**

Ohio House Civil Justice Committee

HB 265, Proponent Testimony

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November 28, 2023

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 265 on behalf of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters (OAPFF). As the current Captain with the Middletown Fire Department (MFD) assigned to Station 81 and President of the OAPFF, I would like to thank Rep. Wiggam and Hall for the introduction of HB 265

HB 265 will exempt certain sensitive information about first responders from disclosure under public records law and will clarify additional information protected under the Ohio Revised Code. Under Ohio's current public records law, work schedules, redaction request forms, and affidavits of Ohio's fire fighters can be accessed through public records requests.

Balancing transparency and privacy is crucial. Redacting personal information of fire fighters from public records helps protect their privacy while still allowing necessary information to be accessible for accountability and public awareness.

If fire fighters' private information gets out, it could lead to various risks, including targeted harassment, identity theft, or compromise of their personal safety. It may also impact the effectiveness of emergency response if fire fighters are concerned about their privacy and security. Protecting their personal information is crucial for maintaining a secure and focused work environment.

The protection HB 265 provides is welcomed in our fire fighters' communities and families.

Our Story

Since 1918, the OAPFF has represented Ohio's fulltime professional fire fighters who stand on the frontlines protecting lives and property of citizens across the Buckeye State. We have 13,500 members (over 95% of Ohio's professional fire fighters) through 287 affiliate locals and agencies.