



PREMIER • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE

## **House Bill 303 - Proponent Testimony**

**Assistant Fire Chief John Donahue**

**February 7, 2024**

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas and Members of the House Homeland Security Committee, my name is John Donahue, and I am currently a member of the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, and the Assistant Fire Chief with the Washington Township Fire Department in Dublin, Ohio. I come to you with over 44-years of experience in fire and EMS, including nearly 17-years as Fire Chief with the City of Delaware and over 12-years as an Assistant Fire Chief in Ohio and Florida. I would like to thank you for the opportunity today to speak on House Bill 303, and for your consideration of this bill.

In 2021, the Ohio Fire Chiefs Board of Directors formed a Training Work Group to look at the impact on legislation and policy that mold the fire/EMS service. Those involved in fire and EMS know the significant quantity of training that already exist and are regularly required. While focusing on this process, the work group wanted to ensure that all types of Fire/EMS service including volunteer, part-time, and career personnel, were included in the potential impact of any new legislation. The work group also discussed the ability for departments to identify and train based on the risks that they protect in their own communities. Other organization or regulations that were discussed impacting the fire/EMS training included the Code of Federal Regulations, National Registry of EMTs, and the Insurance Services Office recommendations. Through the work group's analysis, we recommended to the OFCA Policy Committee and OFCA Board of Directors that the State of Ohio, EMS Division's Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Board also known as the EMFTS Board, be recommended



**PREMIER • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE**

as the entity overseeing and regulating Fire/EMS training. Included with this would be an identified process of vetting any changes including a public hearing.

House Bill 303 ensures EMS training and continuing education will be overseen by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services. I believe that the implementation of this legislation will positively impact EMS training and continuing education through the oversight of the State EMFTS Board which was designed to establish training and certification standards for emergency medical services personnel. The State EMFTS Board is comprised of 21 members representing Ohio's fire and emergency medical services, private medical transportation services, mobile intensive care providers, air medical providers, trauma programs, hospitals, emergency physicians, EMS training programs and the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

I would like to express the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association's and my support for House Bill 303. Your support for this bill will contribute to ensuring the necessary and proper education and continuing education in the State of Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.