

Chairman Brenner, Vice-chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and Committee Members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about SB 112. My name is Jason Pappas, and I am the Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio.

I am here today on behalf of the FOP to express our strong support for the Ohio Childhood Safety Act, designated as Senate Bill 112 (S.B. 112). As an organization committed to promoting safety and security within our communities, we believe that this legislation is of utmost importance in ensuring the safety and well-being of students, educators, and staff in Ohio's school buildings.

The Ohio Childhood Safety Act focuses on enhancing life safety and security measures in school buildings, addressing critical concerns related to emergency preparedness and response. This legislation plays a crucial role in strengthening the overall security infrastructure of our educational facilities, and we would like to emphasize the key reasons why the FOP fully supports this vital legislation:

1. **Protection of Students, Educators, and Staff:** The Ohio Childhood Safety Act places a significant emphasis on the safety and security of students, educators, and staff within school buildings. By implementing regular inspections and testing of protective door assemblies, the legislation ensures that these vital components are functioning optimally to protect against potential threats and unauthorized access.
2. **Regular Inspections and Testing:** The Ohio Childhood Safety Act requires school governing authorities to conduct annual inspections and testing of protective door assemblies by qualified inspectors. These inspections play a vital role in identifying any potential security vulnerabilities and ensuring that proper measures are in place to protect students, educators, and staff during critical situations.
3. **Collaboration and Expertise:** The Ohio Childhood Safety Act encourages collaboration between law enforcement, the board of building standards, and the authority having jurisdiction. This collaboration allows for the exchange of expertise and resources, promoting the implementation of comprehensive security practices in Ohio's school buildings.
4. **Compliance with NFPA Standards:** The legislation mandates that protective door assemblies in school buildings adhere to the standards outlined in the 2015 NFPA 101. This provision ensures that schools have robust security measures in place, including panic hardware, fire exit hardware, electricity-controlled egress doors, and other protective door assemblies. Compliance with these standards significantly enhances the overall security posture of our educational facilities.
5. **Improved Emergency Response:** The Ohio Childhood Safety Act will significantly enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to respond effectively and swiftly to emergencies in school buildings. By ensuring that protective door assemblies are in compliance and undergo regular inspections, first responders will have expedited access to critical areas during emergencies, minimizing response times and potential risks to students, educators, and staff.

6. • Streamlined Police Operations: The legislation provides law enforcement with greater confidence in the security infrastructure of school buildings. Knowing that protective door assemblies have been inspected and tested by qualified inspectors, police officers can focus their attention on addressing the emergency situation at hand without unnecessary delays or complications related to accessing secured areas.

The FOP views the Ohio Childhood Safety Act as a crucial step in ensuring the security and well-being of students, educators, and staff within our school buildings. By enacting this legislation, Ohio will demonstrate its commitment to creating a safe and secure learning environment that promotes optimal educational outcomes.

We urge you to support and advance the Ohio Childhood Safety Act, recognizing the paramount importance of life safety and security in our school buildings. By approving this legislation, Ohio will demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding our educational institutions and creating a secure future for our students.

I want to again thank the Education Committee for the time to speak today, and I am happy to answer any questions.

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