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The Honorable Thomas Hall

Ohio House of Representatives

77 South High Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Hall,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 20, which seeks to establish a new offense for harassing or impeding emergency service responders during the lawful performance of their duties. This legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring the safety and effectiveness of our first responders, including police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and probation officers.

As outlined in the bill, creating a perimeter around emergency service responders and defining harassment as behavior causing substantial emotional distress or interference with their duties will provide them with the necessary space and protection to perform their critical roles without undue hindrance.

The inclusion of probation officers under the definition of emergency service responders further acknowledges the risks faced by all individuals dedicated to public safety. By enacting this legislation, we send a clear message that obstructing or harassing those who serve our communities will not be tolerated.

I urge you and your colleagues to support House Bill 20 and work toward its swift passage. Our first responders deserve a safe environment to carry out their duties effectively, and this bill is a significant move in that direction.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jasen S. Hatfield

FOP President Lodge 101