



Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association

P.O. Box 222, Mount Eaton, Ohio 44659

www.NOFF.org

March 3, 2026

Proponent Testimony: HB 311 (White, Hoops) Designate EMS week in Ohio

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and Members of the Ohio Senate Armed Services Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony for HB 311 (White, Hoops) Designate EMS week in Ohio. My name is Sam Gmetro, and I am in my 20th year of service as a professional firefighter. I am also a 21-year resident of the City of Cleveland and the President of the Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association (NOFF.)

I am submitting written proponent testimony on behalf of the Northern Ohio Firefighters Association.

NOFF represents firefighters in five Ohio counties, and countless retired members throughout Ohio. We have a history of service and we know the importance of working to move Ohio forward, as our members have served on the Police and Fire Pension Board, the State Fire Commission and multiple statewide task forces. We have been involved in regionalization projects, fire life safety programs, recent Ohio Supreme Court case law, and previous pension reform. In addition, giving back and being active in the communities we serve, and those beyond our service, is very important to NOFF and its members. We have organized and raised millions of dollars in funding for various charities over the years through NOFF Charities 501(c)(3) and programs like Aluminum Cans for Burned Children to benefit burn victims and firefighters and their families in need.

Thank you to both sponsors for this bill. EMS workers are on the front line of responding to life and death situations every day. This legislation adds a modest yet well-deserved recognition to those that serve their communities night and day. This week can help encourage Ohioans to serve in the EMS profession, help build trust in the community, and highlight the hard work done by those that care for us daily in some of our greatest times of need.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 311.

Sam Gmetro President, Northern Ohio Firefighters Association (NOFF)