

March 7, 2017

Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson, and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

Thank you for the **opportunity to testify in support of HB 38 (Greenspan) The Public Safety and Military Protection Act.**

My name is Scott Maynor and I am President of the Northern Ohio Fire Fighters (NOFF.) NOFF is made up of over 20 local fire departments representing active and retired firefighters in five different counties (Cuyahoga, Summit, Lake, Wayne, and Portage Counties.)

Our organization has a history of service and knows the importance of working to move this State forward as members have served on the State Fire Commission, statewide task forces, and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Board. We have been involved in regionalization projects, fire life safety programs with fire dampers, and pension reform. Giving and being active in the community is very important to NOFF. Since NOFF's founding, the organization has understood the importance of charity fund raising as NOFF has raised:

Over \$1 million dollars for MetroHealth Hospital Burn Unit
(The MetroHealth Trauma Center is one of the busiest in the nation)
Over \$2 million dollars for Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC)
Over \$3 million dollars for Muscular Dystrophy (MDA)

As you have heard, current law only includes state law enforcement officers being protected specifically under the Ohio Revised Code when a purposeful, intentional and pre-meditated attack of violence occurs.

HB 38 will now include other public safety forces such as firefighters, EMTs and members of the military to be covered under current state law when the intentional and pre-meditated charge of murder – aggravated murder occurs. The legislation provides strong deterrents to individuals who seek to harm fire fighters that are simply doing their job. The legislation will:

- Expand the offense of aggravated murder to include purposely causing the death of a first responder or military member when the victim was engaged in official duties or the offender's specific purpose was to kill a first responder or military member.
- Requires a mandatory prison term of three to 11 years for felonious assault if the victim was a peace officer, BCII investigator, first responder, or military member and the offender knew or had reasonable cause to know the victim's profession.
- Increases the penalty for felonious assault against a first responder or military member from a second degree felony, absent any specification, to a first degree felony.

As a fire fighter, our goal is to save lives and in turn arrive home safely to our families. HB 38 allows another protection to those that serve. That is why I respectfully request your support of HB 38.

Thank you for your time and review of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Scott Maynor
President
Northern Ohio Fire Fighters
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