



## Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association

March 30, 2022

Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chairman Lampton, Ranking Member Miranda and Members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 512.

My name is Scott Maynor, and I am a Lieutenant with the Lyndhurst Fire Department and the Vice President of the Northern Ohio Firefighters Association (NOFF). I was also elected to one term as a Trustee on the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, serving from June 2006 to May 2010. I am testifying today on behalf of the Northern Ohio Firefighters Association.

NOFF consists of over 20 local fire departments representing active and retired firefighters in six different counties. We have a history of service and know the importance of working to move this State forward as members have served on the State Fire Commission and statewide task forces. We have been involved in regionalization projects, fire life safety programs and pension reform. Giving back and being active in the community is also very important to NOFF, the organization and its members have raised considerable funding for various charities over the years. NOFF has been dedicated to public service for over 50 years.

As I am sure you are aware, all active members of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund pay the same percentage (12.25%) into the fund. However, the employer percentage is not equal. Fire employers pay 24% and police employers pay 19.5%. There is no legitimate reason for this disparity. As a result of this disparity in pension contributions, firefighters and their employers have been subsidizing police pensions for decades. Prior to 1986 the employer contribution rate fluctuated. Some years police paid more than fire, some years the opposite. The legislature set the rate at the 1986 levels and haven't changed them since. In that same time period, the employee rate has risen from 9.5% in 1986 to 12.25% today.

House Bill 512 will finally correct the unequal contributions to our retirement system. It is for this reason that the Northern Ohio Firefighters Association supports House Bill 512. Police and Fire members belong to the same retirement system and receive the same benefits. I urge you to ensure we are treated fairly and pay the same percentage for the same benefits. Finally, NOFF would like to thank both Rep. Abrams and Rep. Baldrige for introducing this important piece of legislation, and we respectfully ask that the committee favorably pass HB 512.

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