



# Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Association

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[www.NOFF.org](http://www.NOFF.org)

Senate Judiciary Committee

Senate Bill 16

Proponent Testimony

Northern Ohio Fire Fighters

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Chairman Manning, Vice-Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on behalf of the Northern Ohio Fire Fighters, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on SB 16.

Over the past year, there have been examples around the country of emergency responders being the target of intimidation, harassment, and assault. Unfortunately, this has caused some of these men and women to leave their careers serving their communities. SB 16, if enacted, would provide protections for Ohio's first responders and their families by ensuring that those who attempt to intimidate or assault responders or their families will face punishment. Among other provision, SB 16 includes penalties for incidents that occur in the line of duty, such as obstructing a responder's duty, the expulsion of objects or substances at them, the targeting of responder's eyes with a laser pointer. The bill will also have penalties for obstructing roads that would make traveling to an emergency more difficult.

NOFF would like to thank Senator Schaffer for introducing SB 16. Our members appreciate his efforts to protect Ohio's emergency responders and strongly urge the committee to favorably pass this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sam Gmetro

President, Northern Ohio Fire Fighters