

Good Morning, Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Bishoff and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify before you on House Bill 44 to make May 24th a special day to honor first responders.

This legislation will say thank you to all of Ohio's first responders. First responders are the men and women who sacrifice and put their lives on the line to protect us. They respond to fires, domestic violence situations, heart attacks, and crimes.

One day when I was coming home from school, I saw a car almost hit an ambulance that was responding to an emergency. I thought of the danger these men and women face every day.

Later that day, I saw a veteran's license plate, honoring those who have fought in wars. I then thought about how first responders should also be honored and wondered if there was a day for them. I asked my grandfather if there was a day to honor our first responders, and he said, "No." I asked, "Why not?" Then we decided to have the bill drafted and that is how we got here today.

I want to thank the Committee and especially you, Chair Anielski. I ask for your support of this bill on behalf of the first responders of Ohio. My grandfather and I will now answer any questions you might have.