



**State Representative Bill Patmon**  
**Sponsor Testimony**  
**HB 44**  
**March 7, 2017**

Hello Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Bishoff and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Sponsor Testimony on a bill that I believe is the least we can do to show our gratitude to those who risk their lives every day for our safety. House Bill 44 will designate May 24<sup>th</sup> as First Responders' Appreciation Day in Ohio.

So, what is a first responder? They're a person trained in urgent medical care and other emergency procedures that is prepared to move immediately to the scene of an accident or disaster to provide assistance. First responders include members from many agencies: police, firemen, paramedics/EMTs, dispatchers, disaster agencies and even volunteers. Quite simply, they're the people you see running in when everyone else is running out. First responders are people who show up in the face of danger and natural disaster because they are committed to serving others. Every community, from the largest metropolitan area to the smallest rural town, depends on their first responders to save lives and keep the peace during emergencies ranging from a medical call involving one victim, to large-scale disasters that affect entire states for months. As of 2014, 19 states have state recognized First Responders' Appreciation days, and a few communities here in Ohio such as Cuyahoga Falls and Toledo have recognized their own. Last year the House unanimously passed this same legislation that was then known as HB 163.

Again, thank you Chair Anielski and members of the House State and Local Government Committee.