



**State Representative Bill Patmon**  
**Sponsor Testimony**  
**HB 44**  
**November 14, 2017**

Hello Chair Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs 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 are 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 individuals from many agencies: police, fire, paramedics/EMTs, dispatchers, disaster agencies and even volunteers. Quite simply, they are 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. Earlier this year, both the House State and Local Government Committee and the Ohio House unanimously passed this piece of legislation.

Again, thank you Chair Uecker and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee.