



Testimony In Support of HB 44

Chief Brandon Standley, Bellefontaine Police Department
President of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

December 4, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to write on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police in strong support of House Bill 44 to set aside May 24th of each year as First Responders' Appreciation Day.

My name is Brandon Standley and I currently serve as President of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, representing over 450 active members across our great State. I would like to submit this testimony in support of this bill.

Ohio first responders put their lives on the line every day in support of keeping our communities as safe as possible. Safe communities equal a more prosperous Ohio. Our first responders never know when they may be called into harm's way, or placed in a dangerous situation. Through training, proactive policing, and dedicated public service, many incidents are resolved peacefully and without harm to anyone. This daily commitment in keeping Ohio as safe as possible is why this bill has our support.

Setting aside a time to honor those who put their lives on the line is an admirable effort. Many times, those who have given so much tend to get forgotten along the way. Having a date every year to not only honor first responders in an appropriate way, but also bring to the forefront the dangers of our duties would allow time for communities to be more aware of this level of commitment. Whether it is a firefighter fighting a fire, or a police officer making a high-risk traffic stop, there are dangers each and every day. This would provide an avenue to celebrate these fine men and women who sacrifice so much on behalf of their community and State of Ohio.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police strongly supports this bill and thanks those who have brought it forward.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and please let me know if I can be of further assistance.