

# Greater Montgomery County Fire Chiefs' Association

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March 31, 2022

Re: Ohio House Bill 545- Allow privileged testimonial peer support services communication

Representatives Abrams and Baldrige,

On behalf of the Greater Montgomery County Fire Chiefs Association, I am writing to express our support for the passage of HB 545. The services provided by peer support team members are critically important to the mental health wellness of our members during times of crisis. Historically, firefighters and EMS professionals have been hesitant to ask for help for their emotional health needs that are oftentimes negatively impacted by the nature of incidents that they commonly respond to. Peer support services have been successful in reducing the stigma of asking for help and have shown tremendous benefit for many who have utilized those services. Accordingly, peer support team members should receive the testimonial privilege supported by HB 545.

Respectfully,

Jeff Lykins

President GMCFCA