



VILLAGE OF CHAGRIN FALLS
DIVISION OF POLICE

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Amber Dacek, Chief of Police

May 23, 2022

Rep. Brett Hudson Hillyer
77 South High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Representative Hillyer,

I am respectfully submitting this letter in opposition to the proposed House Bill 472. It is my belief that there is no job more difficult, and yet no more noble than that of a first responder. Police, fire and EMS personnel are expected to successfully solve problems, protect the public, and save lives, and to do so with the knowledge that their effort may result in their own peril. The majority take on this role willingly, and make every effort to perform professionally and without error.

When an emergency occurs, the public expects that the preservation of life is the top priority of those responding to the call. Every second that passes during an emergency has the potential to affect the outcome. This is why our laws have historically provided for an emergency response from first responders, and for protection from civil liability when accidents occur. Removing this protection will have consequences. It will create hesitation and anxiety among first responders, and will likely result in slower response times. First responders are trained to operate their vehicles in a safe manner when responding emergently to a call, and those that do so in a willfully wanton or reckless manner should face disciplinary consequences. That said, those first responders who are making every effort to respond to emergency situations in a safe and professional manner and their employers should be afforded protection for performing a service that many are unwilling to do.

Please consider the negative impact this change will have on response times, as well as the burden it will place on the recruitment efforts of safety forces statewide.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Dacek".

Amber Dacek, Chief of Police