

Brian A. Gatley

President IAFF Local 1723

Written Proponent Testimony in Support of House Bill 512

Ohio House of Representatives

Insurance Committee

March 30, 2022

Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chair Lampton, Ranking Member Miranda and Members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 512.

My name is Brian Gatley and I am a Firefighter and Union President of Norwich Township Local 1723 in Hilliard, Ohio. On behalf of the 90 active members that I represent, I urge you to pass this vital legislation. House Bill 512 will ensure the stability of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund for years to come.

As you may know, in 2013 there were changes that were made to the Pension Fund. Part of these changes included our members taking an increase in their contribution rate as well as an increase in retirement age from 48 to 52. Meanwhile the Employer contribution rate has not increased since 1986.

In recent years we have seen the number of applicants decline. We feel that it is critical to maintain a stable pension fund to attract public safety workers in the future.

A stable pension fund will help to ensure that Police and Firefighters can retire with dignity after a career of service to our community.

I respectfully urge the committee to support House Bill 512. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

#####