



# CANTON

## PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

### LOCAL #249

Scott Winkhart,  
President



Keith Mayle,  
Secretary/Treasurer

P.O. BOX 20430 • CANTON, OH 44701-0430 • 330-312-2880 • [www.iafflocal249.org](http://www.iafflocal249.org) • [scottwinkart.249@gmail.com](mailto:scottwinkart.249@gmail.com)

Scott Winkhart

President

Canton Professional Firefighters Association Local 249

Written Proponent Testimony in Support of House Bill 512

Insurance Committee

Ohio House of Representatives

March 30, 2022

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

On behalf of myself and the 130+ firefighter/paramedics, fire marshals and officers of the Canton Professional Firefighters Association Local 249, I urge you to support House Bill 512. House Bill 512 will provide and ensure the long-term stability of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, which is crucial to the fiscal responsibility required.

As a 21-year member of the City of Canton Fire Department, I have been provided with the opportunity to live out my professional career by utilizing my time and talents to provide public service to the citizens of the City of Canton and the greater Stark County area. As a firefighter/paramedic that has progressed into my current role with the Fire Prevention Bureau as an Arson Investigator and completing the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, I am additionally commissioned with the City of Canton Police Department. This opportunity has provided me with the ability to experience and first-hand witness both sides of the public safety team.

We as first responders have made the strides to improve our professions to the best of our abilities. We have given our all through good times and bad, economic highs and economic lows and never missed a beat during the recent global pandemic. We are all aware the profession we chose will never make us rich, but we all hope to one day retire with dignity and a knowing that we will be financially stable in our golden years.

We have stepped up to the plate in recent years to increase our own employee pension contributions, we have delayed cost of living adjustments and increased our retirement age by four years, all during times when we were asked to do more with less. We now ask for employers to do the same and help us so that we can continue to help you.

I respectfully ask you to support this vital bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: MARCH 29, 2022

Name: SCOTT WINKHART

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): CANTON PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 249

Position/Title: PRESIDENT

Address: 5477 RICHVILLE DRIVE SW

City: NAVAHOE State: OHIO Zip: 44662

Best Contact Telephone: 330 312 2880 Email: SCOTTWINKHART.249@GMAIL

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HOUSE BILL 512

Specific Issue: OHIO POLICE: FIRE PENSION FUND EMPLOYER CONTR.

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? WRITTEN ONLY

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I AM A PROPONENT OF HB 512. THIS BILL IS VITALLY NECESSARY TO THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL HEALTH AND STABILITY OF OUR OP/F PENSION FUND.

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*