



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

222 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4611

(614) 224-5700 Fax (614) 224-5775

www.fopohio.org



House Homeland Security Committee

June 5, 2024

Testimony on House Bill 416

Chair Ghanbari, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee,

I am Mike Weinman, a retired Columbus police officer who serves as director of government affairs for the FOP. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the 23,000 FOP members from every corner of Ohio to give proponent testimony on HB 416.

HB 416 establishes a license, fees, and taxation on photo enforcement firms and a calibration system for speed measurement devices. It will also require a notice on the ticket appeals process. The FOP has a long-established conviction that traffic enforcement should not be used to generate revenue. Traffic enforcement should be about safety on our roadways and changing the behavior of motorists who are operating unsafely. If all you are doing is pushing out hundreds, if not thousands, of tickets on the same stretch of road, and there is no drop in the amount of tickets, then your traffic enforcement program isn't about safety.

On April 12, 2021, Sub. HB 308 of the 133 General Assembly went into effect. The bill created the State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund in the state treasury and designated the Director of Budget and Management as the fund's trustee. Unfortunately, the fund has not received any monies to cover claims, and no designated fund manager exists. HB 416 establishes a revenue stream to fund PTS prevention and treatment. We hope that with this revenue stream, BWC can become the fund's manager, first responders can begin to get treatment for PTS, and prevention programs can be established. Other states require workers' comp systems to cover PTS for first responders. Providing coverage through BWC for first responders who experience PTS is critically important. Failing to treat PTS often leads to death through suicide and creates on-the-job issues such as avoidance and hypersensitivity. Once identified, PTS can be treated effectively, allowing first responders to continue their careers serving their communities and our great state.

For these reasons, the FOP of Ohio respectfully requests that the committee favorably report HB 416.

*President*  
**GARY WOLSKE**  
Garfield Heights PD

*Vice President*  
**JASON PAPPAS**  
Columbus PD

*Secretary*  
**ERIC LEHNHART**  
BCI&I

*Treasurer*  
**GREG TOYEAS**  
Cincinnati PD

*2nd Vice President*  
**BILL SARINGER**  
North Olmsted PD

*Sergeant at Arms*  
**SHARI ROBERTSON**  
Mansfield PD

*Immediate Past President*  
**JAY McDONALD**  
Marion PD

*District Trustees*  
*First*  
**BRIAN ARMSTEAD**  
Akron PD

*Second*  
**ADAM CHELLIS**  
Wayne Co SO

*Third*  
**AMY PUGH**  
Port Clinton PD

*Fourth*  
**TOM PORTER**  
Zanesville PD

*Fifth*  
**MIKE GALBRAITH**  
Dayton PD

*Sixth*  
**MIKE WATKINS**  
Lima PD

*Seventh*  
**DAMIAN GLASER**  
Cleveland PD

*Eighth*  
**STEVE FIORITTO**  
Lakewood PD

*Ninth*  
**JON HALUSEK**  
Cincinnati PD

*Tenth*  
**AARON BRAMEL**  
Ohio Veterans Services

*Eleventh*  
**TRAVIS PARKER**  
Columbus PD

*National Trustee*  
**SHAUN LAIRD**  
Columbus PD

*Chief Counsel*  
**GWEN CALLENDER**