



THE CITY OF  
**CANTON OHIO**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Ohio House Pension Committee**

HB 296, Interested Party Written Testimony

**Dan Reed, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Intelligence Liaison Officer, City of Canton Fire Dept, Local 249**

December 12, 2023

Chairman Mathews, Vice Chair King, Ranking Member Lightbody, and members of the House Pensions Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony as an Interested Party for House Bill 296. My name is Dan Reed, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Intelligence Liaison Officer, for the City of Canton Fire Dept, Local 249.

## **My Story**

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I have been a firefighter for 30 years. I went to Stark State College and got an Associates Degree in Emergency Medical Services. 1989-1992 I served in the US Army as an E-4/ Specialist, Counterintelligence Special Agent.

I realized I wanted to become a firefighter at a young age. I had several members of my family that were career firefighters, and I saw how the career was fulfilling, and provided a stable income for their families.

I had many mentors who positively influenced me to become a career firefighter, and advised me on what I needed to do to become one.

### **Firefighters Sacrifice Their Own Personal Health & Safety Performing Their Duties – The Pension Offers Us Financial Security In Retirement**

Having members of my family and extended family in the fire service, some were active and some were retired, I saw the value of having a job that was stable with benefits, as well as having a pension once retired. The retirees I knew, lived modestly, but after a long career of serving the public, sacrificing their own personal health and safety in performing these duties, the pension offered them financial security in retirement. As public servants, we also sacrifice financially. We do not have the opportunities to make as much money that can be made in the private sector allowing us to contribute a lot of money into retirement savings.

In today's employment environment, and the difficulty in recruiting individual's to career's in the safety services (Police, Fire & EMS) it is imperative that our retirement system remain intact as is, if not improved. I am also a Fire Coordinator at a local community college, and when speaking to prospective students who are interested in a career in the fire service, I speak about the stability of the job, part of that being the Ohio Police & Fire Pension fund.

I respectfully request you to vote in favor of HB 296.