



**Ohio House Pension Committee**  
HB 296, Interested Party Written Testimony  
**Liam Shanahan, Norwood Fire Department, Local 445**  
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 Liam Shanahan, a firefighter for Norwood Fire Department, Local 445.

## My Story

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I have been with Norwood for just over two years. Before working for Norwood, I worked for ten years for the Washington Township Fire Department in Dublin. I earned a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from Beloit College in Wisconsin. Then I went on to earned a Masters of Arts in Emergency Management and Fire Service Administration from Eastern Kentucky University.

### September 11, 2001

Most of us remember September 11, 2001 as a horrific day. For the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), however, the horror stretched on. Fires around the World Trade Center Plaza, including two of the biggest in New York's history, took three days to subdue. It took three months to extinguish the smoldering fires in the stories upon stories of rubble, rubble which included more than 90 vehicles and spewed out toxins and hampered the search for identifiable remains. All the while, the FDNY was grieving the loss of 343 colleagues, including many of its officers and several of its top leaders, preparing for the possibility of additional terrorist attacks, and tending to ongoing needs of its surviving firefighters — and of the massive and complex city it serves.



A monumental tragedy had ripped through the FDNY, one of the world's most renowned fire departments. I always felt the calling to serve others. After 9/11, the fire service became my vocation and avenue to serving my community and providing a positive, lifesaving service to others.

**Being A Firefighter Doesn't Make You Rich, The Pension Made It Easier For My Career Choice**  
Deciding to make a career of serving others is not one that makes you rich. Having a pension made my career choice easier, and should allow me and my fellow public servants to serve the greater good without worrying about making ends meet in retirement.

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

