



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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March 28, 2020

Honorable Mike DeWine
30th Floor
77 South High St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

First, I would like to thank you for your leadership during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate how you and your Cabinet have been in keeping Ohioans informed with your daily news conferences. The steps you have enacted have certainly helped keep the citizens of Ohio healthy, safe and alive.

Secondly, as I'm certain you are aware, our first responders are on the front lines everyday with potential exposure to COVID-19 patients. Our chances of being exposed and thereby contracting COVID-19 are exponentially greater than those in the general population. Therefore, on behalf of the nearly 24,000 members of the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police and the many other law enforcement officers in the State, I respectfully request that you issue an Executive Order to the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation to issue emergency rules stating that first responders who are either confirmed or suspected of contracting COVID-19 shall be eligible for benefits under Ohio's Workers Compensation Law, and that such illness or injury be recognized as an occupational disease and presumed to have been contracted in the line of duty unless it can be exclusively proven that the exposure occurred off duty.

We would also respectfully ask, that as a minimum, the following situations meet the criteria to be eligible for benefits:

- The first responder is quarantined at the direction of his or her employer due to any suspected COVID-19 exposure or the display of any COVID-19 symptoms, or
- The first responder receives a presumptive positive COVID-19 test, or
- The first responder receives a COVID-19 diagnosis from a physician, or
- The first responder receives a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis

On behalf of the nearly 24,000 members of the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police, please know we remain dedicated to the safety and well being of our fellow Ohioans and I again would like to thank you for your consideration on this important matter and again for your leadership in this time of crisis.

Respectfully,

Gary Wolske,
President
Ohio Fraternal Order of Police