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**Testimony to the House Appropriations Committee
In Support of HB2716**

March 7, 2022

Chairman Waymaster and Committee Members:

Our associations are very appreciative of the passage last year of HB2021 which laid the groundwork for the very important benefit to the spouses and children of first responders killed or disabled in the line of duty and for the first responders disabled in the line of duty. HB2716 is a trailer bill to what passed last year.

We were contacted by a representative of the Board of Regents and asked to assist them in addressing some issues needing clarification to properly implement the legislative intent of the bill. The amendments in HB2716 will address those implantation concerns and assure the legislative intent is fully and properly implemented. Passing this bill will assure our first responders and their families have appropriate support to move forward in their lives in the face of their loss of income and the challenges presented to them through a duty related disability or death.

We support clarifications made in HB2716 and urge you to recommend the bill favorably.

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