

Brothers and Sisters,

Senate Bill 5 is as fluid as it can be right now. There is turmoil in the legislature on what to do with this bill. We need to keep up the pressure with phone calls and emails, not just in the House but with the Ohio Senate as well. Our strategy is being effective, just keep up the professional demeanor and keep up the repeated phone calls and emails.

As SB 5 comes to a conclusion, our best information leads us to believe that it will be passed and it will be harmful to our profession. The bill as it stands today WILL put your safety at risk, it WILL put your standard of living at risk and it WILL allow your employer to unilaterally take actions against employees. It WILL lead to corruption, it WILL lead to favoritism and cronyism, and it WILL lead to discrimination.

The FOP of Ohio has an historic opportunity in front of us. A referendum to repeal SB 5 will take place after the passage of the bill. It will be expensive. It will cost the FOP about one million dollars to be able to effectively participate in the effort to overturn Senate Bill 5. There is no war chest or secret fund of money available. Our members do not want the State Lodge to have money sitting around "just in case," so we do not. We have to come and ask when emergencies arise. This is an emergency.

The tactics and strategy of a referendum have time to be decided. However, the decision on whether or not we participate is an immediate one. Therefore, I have called a meeting of the Board of Trustees for April 6th at 1:00 p.m. at the Capital City Lodge #9 in Westerville. I would like a representative from every Lodge to attend. There will be as much discussion as possible on this issue before the Board votes on another assessment to raise the million dollars.

These numbers are not firm and they could change between now and then. However, the current discussion from the Board is about \$50 per ACTIVE member in the Ohio FOP. We would also request voluntary contributions from RETIREES but would exempt them from the per capita assessment. If our coalition partners also contribute the same amount of money per member, that will raise the one million dollars needed to effectively work on your behalf.

Please know this is not an attempt to permanently raise your dues. This is not an attempt to squeeze the membership for additional dollars for the day to day operations of the FOP. This is the fight of our lives and we need the tools to be able to protect you and your fellow members when the unthinkable happens in your department. Please participate in the discussion about this topic. Reach out to your fellow members and ask them if \$50 is too much to ask to try to fight to keep arbitration, to be able to continue to negotiate health care, to continue to insure fairness in the workplace. Ask them if \$50 is too much to ask to be able to talk about safety equipment that may save their lives. It is my belief that our members will be willing to pay \$50 towards this campaign. Please give the elected leaders in the FOP your input on the issue.

Fraternally,

Jay McDonald - Ohio FOP President