

**Chairman Harper, Chairman Freeman
And Members of the House Local Government
Committee**

My name is Jim Walsh. I am a member and officer in York County FOP Lodge 73 and I presently serve on the Legislative Committee of the Pennsylvania State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police. I am representing the State Lodge today in support of House Bill 1193 introduced by Representative Rick Saccone. This bill will amend P.L. 1206, No.331 to allow police officers of 1st class Townships to be candidates for the position of school board member. HB 1193 will add 1st Class Townships to 2nd Class townships and Boroughs who already have this right.

We consider that police officers, who frequently have school aged children, should have the ability, just as any other citizen of the Commonwealth, to participate in the important decisions that are made by the school boards. These decisions directly affect their own children and those of the community in which they serve.

Police officers and their families are vital members of their respective communities and to limit unnecessarily, their participation in civic life, is a loss to both the officer and the community.

Our first President George Washington recognized that his soldiers like today's police officers, are still citizens when he said:

"When we assumed the Soldier, we did not lay aside the Citizen." George Washington speech to NY Legislature June 26, 1775.