

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 2/14/17

NAME: John Pickarski

ORGANIZATION: Springfield Police Division  
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: retired police sergeant

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ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF  ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON  
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 9

SPECIFIC ISSUE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT MATTER: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU FAVOR  OR OPPOSE  THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

It does not infringe on 131-HB 154  
& keeps roads safe.

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?  
Yes  No

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 0 minutes

February 13, 2017

Ohio House of Representatives  
Transportation and Public Safety Committee  
77 South High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Thank you Chairman Green, Vice-Chairman Greenspan, ranking-member Sheehy and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee for allowing me to testify to you today on House Bill 9.

As an avid bicyclist for over twenty (20) years, I was quite pleased and thankful for the passage of House Bill 154 during the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. I could tell you of numerous times when I had been forced to the side of the road and nearly run off the side by passing cars and trucks. The actions taken by the General Assembly on House Bill 154 was seen by bike riders as a sign that we are both recognized and protected by our elected representatives. For that, all of my fellow riders and myself are forever grateful.

However, as a retired Police Sergeant from Springfield, Ohio Police Division, I share another concern with the passage of House Bill 154. Its terminology in relation "to proceeding under due caution" when stopped for a red traffic signal. Since a bicycle and rider are not heavy enough to activate the change of the signal to green, the bill allows us "to proceed under due caution." This section of the law is now being widely interpreted by some individuals to mean that ALL VEHICLES can, upon encountering such a red traffic signal to willfully and unlawfully proceed thru the light.

Because of that concern and my past experiences as a police officer citing individuals for red light violations and from investigating numerous crashes at traffic standard controlled intersections, this law MUST be corrected and clarified to show the meaning of the law is directed primarily and solely to bicycle riders at such controlled intersections.

For those reasons, I strongly urge this committee to support House Bill 9, which fixes the problematic language of House Bill 154. Your support of this Bill is important as it will help keep ALL of our citizens safe while on the roads.

Finally, as a bicyclist, House Bill 9 DOES NOT infringe upon any of the freedoms gained for the bicycling community through the passage of House Bill 154.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

Sincerely,

John E. Pickarski  
4011 Cedar Hills Ave.  
Springfield, OH 45504