

Chairman Green, Vice Chairman Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for taking the time today to consider House Bill 447, which will create an Order of Eastern Star License Plate for Amaranth Grand Chapter, Inc.

The Order of the *Eastern Star* is the world's largest fraternal organization to which men and women may both belong.

Amaranth Grand Chapter, Inc., Order of the Eastern Stars, Prince Hall Affiliation, State of Ohio has been in existence since 1878. And we are a non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization comprised of more than 3500 members throughout the state of Ohio. Through more than 45 local Chapters, our members annually support numerous charities and community service projects. We take great pride in the work we do in our communities and we desire the opportunity to show our love for the Order of Eastern Star and our love for our communities by displaying our own O.E.S. license plate.

In our Stateside charities we collect clothing for various shelters, socks for the homeless, school supplies for underserved students, food for local pantries, and we provide scholarships for deserving students. Statewide we ring bells for the Salvation Army in what we call the "Gift of Ringing Campaign". We share and help where we're needed including Ronald McDonald House, Cancer Hospice at the Southern Ohio Medical Center, Children's Diabetes, Ohio State Diabetes, the Women of Hope shelter for homeless female Veterans. We visit our local nursing homes to provide needed personal items, share games and companionship to their residents.

We sponsor Girls Assembly Chapters around the state. These chapters are made up of girls between the ages of 8 through 18 years of age. They are our future and our work and sponsorship to them allow us to nurture them as they grow into positive womanhood. I myself am a proud product of a Girls Assembly Chapter in 1958.

We sponsor a Dress for Success clothing give away whereby individuals can look their very best as they go for interviews for employment and when they are employed the clothing allows them to continue to present themselves suitable for the workplace. We sponsor water and food drives for disaster areas. We conduct blood drives and health fairs.

We are also global partners with several other organizations and, as a result, have funded the construction of a life-saving water cistern in the Congo and the construction of a school in Ghana, West Africa. - the list of our "sharing and caring" for others is endless. - in other words - where there is a need, you will find members of Amaranth Grand Chapter. The members of the Order of Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliated would love to have the opportunity to display our own license plate, so we kindly solicit your vote for House Bill 447. The income from the sale of the license plates will contribute greatly to our Amaranth Grand Chapter Foundation which is a non-profit charity and it would increase our ability to continue the good works in which we have listed above.

I thank you again for your time and consideration and look forward to any question you may have.

Jeanette R. Langford
42th Grand Worthy Matron
Amaranth Grand Chapter, Inc. OES, PHA