



Sponsor Testimony on Behalf of HB 357

Thank you Chairman Green and Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony for HB 357.

HB 357 will create a Grandview Heights Schools License Plate. As you know, these license plate bills are plentiful – and this committee may have considered more than the enrollment at Grandview Heights High School, which is around 450.

These state license plates are important. They increase non-tax revenue for important causes, raise awareness for important issues, and creates a better sense of community pride.

The Grandview License Plate would do just that. The District has one of the highest rates of special education and gifted student populations in central Ohio. Proceeds from the plates will go directly to the district for programs to help these students.

Grandview Heights Schools have a long record of success for a district nestled in between larger and more well-known districts. It traces its origin back to around 1850 when the growing Capital was expanding all the way to 5th avenue. It started with a one room, log cabin school.

By the turn of the century, Marble Cliff and Grandview Heights set up a joint school system – essentially the same school district today. And last spring, Grandview Heights saw its 102nd graduating class.

Grandview Heights has grown up with Columbus and has a long list of leaders throughout Central Ohio that went through its doors. The current Edison Elementary School dates from 1912 and the High School from 1927. Today, there are just under 1100 students in grades K-12.

As budgets continue to feel the pressure from economic realities, allowing these families, alumni, supporters, and community members to augment special education and gifted and talented programs through creating the Grandview Heights Schools License Plate will help it to continue serving these special populations of students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we are happy to answer any questions.