

**Standing Committees**

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**State Representative Darrell Kick**

Ohio's 70<sup>th</sup> House District: Ashland and Portions of Holmes and Medina Counties

**House Civil Justice Committee  
House Bill 477 – Driving Privileges  
Sponsor Testimony  
11 February 2020**

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 477 along side my joint sponsor Representative West.

House Bill 477 straightforward piece of legislation, intended to discontinue the unfair practice of suspending a person's license, and then not granting them driving privileges when the offense they committed had nothing to do with driving or with using a vehicle for criminal reasons. Ohio's justice system needs to stop using a total license suspension as an arbitrary punishment. It is unjust to hinder someone's the ability to get to work, and to interfere with his or her ability to live up to personal obligations. Our system should only fully suspend or revoke a person's driver's license if they are truly a danger behind the wheel, or if they are using vehicles for criminal purposes. Full suspensions of licenses without granting limited privileges can significantly hinder peoples' ability to provide for their families. This bill will save individuals who have not committed a driving related

crime from having their license suspended and then being placed in the difficult position of deciding whether to lose their job or drive without a license.

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for allowing us to testify. Representative West and I look forward to answering your questions.