

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you representing: Yourself \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you testifying as a: Proponent \_\_\_\_\_ Opponent \_\_\_\_\_ Interested Party \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide a brief statement on your position:**

Every day during the school year when school buses are on the streets of Streetsboro, OH, our drivers report multiple incidents where drivers fail to stop for a school bus while picking up or dropping off students. This puts our students in immediate danger of being struck by another vehicle. Our staff report drivers of being distracted, often with mobile devices in their hands while passing the bus. Oftentimes, the vehicles pass after making visual contact with the bus driver in a manner that seems to indicate they are aware they're passing a school bus with its red lights on. It is not uncommon to hear drivers report (over the radio or in person) multiple vehicles passing a school bus in a row - often not even slowing down to look for kids either entering the bus or stepping off.

As a general best practice, we try to route our school buses so kids only need get on and off on the right hand side of the road as it provides at least some safety from other vehicles. Sometimes it is simply not possible, and a child has to cross a road. The red lights on a bus are there to alert other traffic, and to stop them before kids cross. There have been several incidents in the last year alone where kids have almost gotten hit by another vehicle failing to stop while a child is crossing. While we implement procedures for drivers and kids to make sure such crossings are as safe as possible, lately, our fellow motor vehicle operators do not seem to bother to take the time to stop for a bus. Our kids are worth more than a 30 second delay on a commute. We must take action to increase the safety of our precious cargo.

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*