



## OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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800-457-4190

June 17, 2019

Representative Doug Green  
Chairman House Transportation and Public Safety Committee  
77 S. High St.  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Green, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA) strongly supports House Bill 51 put forth by Representative Ginter. The OPBA represents around 8,000 active and retired police officers, sheriffs' deputies, corrections officers, and dispatchers across the state. This bill makes changes to existing state law that will impact the day to day lives of our members. The bill will make our members **safer** while doing their jobs.

With the proliferation of handheld devices being used by drivers more and more, any device that can be built into the infrastructure that will lessen distracted driving is critical. It is our hope that adding rumble strips as this bill requires, will reduce crash incidence and danger. Our members work on these roads daily. Whether assisting with a vehicle crash or enforcing traffic laws, our members are constantly in danger due to distracted driving.

Law enforcement officers are hit and killed or injured across Ohio every year. Indeed, on June, 24, 2018 Mentor Police Officer Mathew Mazany was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver while assisting another officer during a traffic stop on Route 2, near Route 306. Mathew was an OPBA member, husband, father, brother, and son.

The OPBA urges you to vote yes on this bill and increase the protections for law enforcement officers and the public.

Respectfully,

*/s/ Thomas Austin*

Thomas Austin  
Executive Director

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