



Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on HB 446.

Elder abuse is wrong.

As individuals, we have a moral and social responsibility to stand up for the most vulnerable among us. When we see the elderly being abused, we must stand against this grave injustice.

In Ohio, we know that we have an aging demographic. According to the National Council on Aging, approximately 1 in 10 elderly Americans (over the age of 60) are abused. Unfortunately, the numbers are probably much higher than this due to the fact that studies estimate that only 1 out of 14 elder abuse cases are actually reported to the authorities. This can include physical, emotional, and financial abuse.

Too often, elder abuse goes unnoticed. It is occurring all across the state of Ohio.

I sit on the Governor's Elder Abuse Commission. Every meeting, we are discussing the very real elder abuse that occurs in our state.

Kathy Leese is a constituent in my district whom you will hear from shortly. After her father died from elder abuse, she contacted my office. She knew we needed to do something to educate people on elder abuse. If we are going to combat elder abuse, we must bring attention to it.

The "Stop Elder Abuse" license plate will not be any cost to the state of Ohio. Individuals who purchase the license plate from the BMV will simply pay a fee to cover the extra cost to produce this custom license plate.

This "Stop Elder Abuse" license plate will help create awareness in our communities. This license plate is a tangible way people can stand up against the indignity of elder abuse.

Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.