



**State Representative Michael O'Brien  
Ohio House District 64**

**Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 414  
May 26, 2020**

Chairman Green, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and distinguished members of the Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I am honored today to present sponsor testimony for House Bill 414.

This legislation would create the John F. Kennedy Catholic School license plate. Constructed in 1964, the school was originally going to be named Assumption High School. However, after the assassination of President John F. Kenney in 1963, the name was changed to honor the slain President.

From the school's first graduating class in 1964 to the present class of 2020, JFK has boasted a 100% graduation rate. In addition, the school's 55 annual graduates are the recipients of over \$2 million in academic and/or athletic scholarships. Clearly, they have an extremely successful program at JFK.

A few past graduates include:

- Sam Covelli, owner and operator of Covelli Enterprises, the sixth largest restaurant franchisee in the United States and the top Panera Bread franchisee in the country. Covelli Enterprises currently employs over 35,000 people.
  
- Another JFK graduate is Hugh Hewitt. Mr. Hewitt is a conservative radio talk show host with the Salem Radio Network as well as an attorney, an academic, and an author. He is the President and CEO of the Richard Nixon Foundation, a law professor at Chapman University School of Law, a columnist for the Washington Post and a regular political commentator on NBC News and MSNBC.

- Congressman Tim Ryan also graduated from John F. Kennedy Catholic High School. Congressman Ryan has served northeast Ohio in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District since 2003. He has been re-elected 8 times and is currently serving his 9<sup>th</sup> term. Congressman Ryan also holds a law degree from the University of New Hampshire School of Law.
- Another very successful former graduate is film director, producer and writer Chris Columbus. Mr. Columbus' movies include several of the Harry Potter films, Mrs. Doubtfire, and Home Alone. He has been nominated twice for both Academy Awards and Golden Globe awards.

As you can tell, I am very proud of John F. Kennedy Catholic High School, from which my son Dominic graduated this year. It is an excellent school where students receive an outstanding education. Proceeds from the sale of these license plates will go to the school's general fund to be used where it is most needed. In our current economic crunch due to the global pandemic, our schools need all the help they can get.

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing me to present sponsor testimony on HB 414. I respectfully request your support for this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.