



Senator Andrew O. Brenner – 19th District
Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee
March 19, 2019
Senate Bill 73 – Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Uecker, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for hearing sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 73, which will alter the law governing yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks where traffic signals or signage are not present.

Currently, pedestrians only hold the right of way when they are located within the crosswalk itself. Vehicles are only required to yield once a pedestrian is in their side of the crosswalk. This bill would change the law to require a vehicle to yield to a pedestrian that is standing on the curb in front of a non-traditional crosswalk on their side of the road.

This bill maintains current law that a car traveling in the opposite direction and not in the lane of the pedestrian is still allowed to continue driving. However, once the pedestrian nears their section of the crosswalk, the car and driver must yield to the pedestrian until he or she has reached the opposite side, again, in accordance with current law.

In discussions with our local chief of police in Delaware, this issue has posed a significant risk to pedestrians, especially on Ohio Wesleyan University's campus. OWU has several non-traditional crosswalks, which their student population utilizes to get from one part of campus to another. Even with the addition of special crosswalk signage in recent years, cars have not yielded the right of way, and in some cases, this has led to accidents and injuries on both parties.

By making this change we are protecting pedestrians from stepping into oncoming traffic to gain the right of way and ensuring drivers and cars are yielding properly. The goal of this legislation is to keep everyone safe, pedestrians and drivers alike. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to give sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 73 and I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.