



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

Testimony in Support of S.B. 73
Chief Bruce Pijanowski, Delaware Police Department
Representing the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Chairman Ueker, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veteran's Affairs Committee.

My name is Bruce Pijanowski. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Delaware and I represent the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. I am here today on behalf of OACP as well as the City of Delaware in Support of SB 73, which will provide a simple but effective safety improvement for pedestrians at unregulated crosswalks.

The changes proposed in SB 73 will accomplish the following:

- Motor vehicles will be required to stop when a pedestrian is waiting at a crosswalk at the curb.
- Pedestrians will be able to secure the right of way without putting themselves at risk by stepping into the roadway.

Under today's conditions, crossing in an unregulated crosswalk requires that pedestrians actually place themselves in the roadway in front of a motor vehicle to acquire the right of way. This obviously places the pedestrian in harm's way with no assurance that the driver of an approaching vehicle will see them or stop. The consequence of an incorrect assessment is potentially life threatening.

The changes proposed in SB 73 will require a vehicle to stop for pedestrians that are waiting at the curb, as opposed to requiring pedestrian to step into the roadway for the right of way. This allows the pedestrian to acquire the right of way from a place of safety.

This legislation does not change the right of way at regulated intersections, and does not change the prohibition that pedestrians may not suddenly leave the curb into the path of a vehicle when the vehicle is slow close as to represent an obvious hazard.

I would like to thank Senator Brenner for introducing this legislation, and thank the committee for your consideration.