



Department of Transportation  
2865 South 3B's & K Road  
Galena, Ohio 43021

**Lori Carter-Evans, Director of Transportation, Olentangy Local School District**  
**Sub. Senate Bill 134 Proponent Testimony**  
**October 2, 2019**

Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today in support of Sub. Senate Bill (SB) 134, the School Bus Safety Act. My name is Lori Carter-Evans with the Olentangy Local School District.

The Olentangy Local School District appreciates Senator Gavarone introducing this legislation that is a step in the right direction in supporting the safety of students on and off the school bus.

More than 130 Olentangy school bus drivers participated in a survey of reporting illegal bus passing in March of this year. Most of the illegal bus passing occurred as vehicles approached the bus from the front.

- 44% of the illegal passing occurred in the morning
- 52% were illegally passed in the afternoon
- 94% were passed as approaching the bus from the front
- 6% were passed from the rear

My district would greatly benefit from images captured by stop arm cameras to assist in reporting illegal bus passing. It is a difficult task for school bus drivers to focus on recording a detailed description including obtaining the license plate number of illegal passers while maintaining the safety of students. It is alarming when it occurs and heart wrenching to think about what could happen to our precious cargo when a vehicle illegally passes a bus loading or unloading students. Now with the upcoming change of eliminating the front license plates, it will be extremely difficult, if possible at all, for our drivers to report the plate numbers of vehicles approaching the bus from the front. With 94% of our buses passed from the front, the stop arm cameras will be a welcomed advocate for student safety.

Olentangy school bus drivers are committed to keeping students safe. They are responsible for knowing where students are waiting before they step on the bus, what students are doing, to a certain degree, while they are on the bus and where they are heading immediately when they step off the bus. To ensure students are safe when they leave the bus, drivers need to know whether they are crossing to get to their residence with the driver's signal or remaining on the side the bus drops off.

We appreciate and need the proposed appropriation to assist our school district in purchasing and equipping our school buses with this camera technology.

We also appreciate consideration for designating August as "School Bus Safety Awareness Month." Together we can all promote this. We must remind the public that school buses will be back on the road as students return to school and we expect community support and compliance with keeping students safe!

Thank you for your time and attention.

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