

September 7, 2017

The Honorable Joseph W. Uecker, Chair

Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Ohio Senate

Senate Building – Room 226

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Uecker:

On behalf of our organizations, we are writing to express our support for House Bill 8.

As we understand the bill, it would exempt the name, address, contact information, and other personal information of a person who is under age 18 (a minor) from the Public Records Law under certain conditions. A minor's personal information would be exempt if it is included in the record of a school vehicle traffic accident, and the minor was in the vehicle at the time of the accident.

Quite frankly, we can see no public purpose to include the identifying information of any student who was the occupant of a school vehicle at the time of any accident. After all, law enforcement would still have access to this information necessary for any necessary investigation.

Furthermore, releasing such information as a public record only invites additional inquiries to those students and families at a time when they may already be experiencing trauma from an accident.

We respectfully offer our support for House Bill 8 and request that the committee favorably report House Bill 8 to the Rules and Reference Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas P. Ash

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C: Representative Steve Hambley