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Vice Chair, All Aboard Ohio
Reference: HB 26 – Transportation Budget
Testimony Time ~ 3 minutes

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, hello and thank you for your time today. My name is Derek Bauman, I am a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio.

By vocation, I am a recently retired police officer with 25 years of service. I retired from the Mason, Ohio Police Department in 2016 after being injured in the line of duty. However, I am here today in my role as Vice Chair of All Aboard Ohio, a statewide 501c3 organization of over 500 members supporting public transportation.

I would like to reiterate the testimony of Mr. Doyle and add some additional details that I think you may find of particular interest.

In my role at All Aboard Ohio I get the opportunity to travel to and study what other states and regions are doing with regard to inter-city rail service. In addition I have the unique opportunity to travel our state and hear what the people are saying.

What we know is this: Our young people today, more than ever, wish to be connected. Not by road raging down I-75 or I-71, but by social media and through their iphones, laptops, and other mobile devices. As we look across the country and the Midwest, our competitor states, like North Carolina, Virginia, Missouri, Wisconsin, Indiana, and dare I say...Meeechegan...are investing in inter-city rail because they know that is what our young people of today are

demanding. Our young people, who might otherwise leave to go to these states, or go away to college and never come back.

When I travel to speak to Kiwanis groups or Lions Clubs in towns like Dayton, Xenia, Oxford and others, folks want to know, how can we keep our young people in Ohio? How can I NOT have to travel out of state to see my kids and grandkids.

The answer is simple. Provide them with the type of transportation options that they are demanding today. Options that are safe and that allow them to be online.

Amtrak is on a roll. Literally. In 2016 they set records for ridership and revenue with over 31 million riders and \$3.2 billion in revenue.

Now, let me give you a specific example of what I'm talking about. In SW Ohio, we have the Amtrak Cardinal that makes it's way from the east coast, through WV, KY, with a stop at Cincinnati Union Terminal on it's way to Indianapolis, West Lafayette (Purdue) and on to Chicago. And then back.

All Aboard Ohio recently hosted a meeting with the city of Oxford, Miami University and Amtrak that resulted in Oxford being approved for a Cardinal stop, not only to support Butler County and SW Ohio, but also the nearly 20,000 college students at Miami, most of whom don't have cars.

The meeting resulted in Oxford being approved for a stop by Amtrak. The city and the University each have recently committed \$350,000, \$700,000 total, to the total cost of the station which will be \$1 million.

That is a large investment for a city the size of Oxford, and is indicative of the local support and importance of such a station. This

is why we are asking that the state of Ohio be partner in this program.

Additionally, in Cincinnati, the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce has gotten behind our efforts to bring the Cardinal line to daily service from its current 3 days per week in each direction.

With regard to daily inter-city rail service to Chicago, the chamber's Jason Kershner said, "This is a piece of the puzzle for the chamber's transportation strategy of connecting people to jobs," said [Jason Kershner](#), the chamber's vice president for government relations. "We've really put our stake in the ground that transportation is important to business."

What we are calling for at this time is simply a relatively small amount of gap funding that does not require ongoing operational funding from the state.

We are simply asking the state of Ohio to be an active partner with Amtrak, the federal government, and localities around the state, who are dedicated. And who are making smart investments to keep us competitive. To keep us from falling further and further behind our competitors.

At the end of the day, this is an economic investment. An investment in our future. An investment in population growth and to keep our young people so their parents and grandparents don't have to travel to other states to visit them.

And with that, I am open to taking any questions from members of the committee.