**Testimony to the House Transportation Committee**

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and

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Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of House Bill 296, which would establish the Healthy New Albany license plate.

Healthy New Albany is a movement developed to embrace healthy living through community activities, events, personalized wellness, and disease prevention.

This not-for-profit organization involves a Farmers Market, the New Albany Food Pantry, community garden, cancer survivor program, senior programming and health lectures to provide support to individuals throughout Central Ohio seeking healthy living.

The creation of this license plate would help create a route for additional funding to impact the lives of those living in central Ohio.  In particular, Healthy New Albany will use the contributions received for its community programs, events, and other activities.

As a legislator, I’m incredibly proud to represent my neighbors and support the work they do to leave our community a better place than they found it, and Healthy New Albany is a perfect example of that. HB 296 is a small yet important way to accomplish this goal – the financial support that the bill would provide this organization will go a long way towards allowing its important work to continue and expand.

With that, I am pleased to introduce my friend, the executive director and founder of Healthy New Albany, Phil Heit, to provide testimony about his organization. Phil, a professor emeritus at OSU as well as a nationally and internationally recognized educator in the field of Physical Activity and Educational Services, founded Healthy New Albany after starting the New Albany Walking Club and New Albany Walking Classic (which I just participated in this past Sunday)!

Throughout his life, Phil has had a track record of practicing what he preaches and taking what he teaches as an educator into his community – Healthy New Albany is a testament to that. Following Phil’s testimony, we would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.