



Chairman Green, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer additional testimony today on House Bill 458, legislation that if enacted, would create a specialized Ohio license plate representing the University of Alabama.

As Representative Rogers indicated in his testimony, the University of Alabama is well represented in the State of Ohio. I am a 1978 graduate of the University of Alabama and was employed for 35 years at Southern State Community College in Ohio. As president of CrimsonATI, the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the University of Alabama National Alumni Association, I often work closely with our chapter members to raise funds for our endowed scholarships. We now offer three endowed scholarships in Ohio, two from Greater Cincinnati and one from the Central Ohio Chapter.

Scholarship fundraising at the University of Alabama is a unique experience. I say this because for every dollar we raise each year, the University matches that amount annually from 80-100%. These matching funds come from the sale of branded license plates from the state of Alabama as well as other states throughout the country. It is my hope that Ohio will become the next state to contribute to this worthy cause.

The University of Alabama recruits between 100 and 120 full-time students from Ohio each year. Many of these new students receive merit scholarships that often total \$5 million dollars in scholarship assistance each year. This is tuition not paid by Ohioans. Our two alumni Chapters in Ohio often receive contributions from these parents of U of A students receiving merit scholarships to that other prospective students can attend Alabama.

Alumni, students and fans of the University of Alabama make a significant economic contribution to Ohio's economy. Alabama grads are employed throughout the State of Ohio in big corporations and in small enterprises. Most of the Ohio grads from U of A return to our area to work, raise a family and contribute to the local economy of their respective communities. In addition, Alabama grads often relocate to Ohio for gainful employment, thus adding to our local economy.

Over the past two years, our alumni chapters in Ohio have been gathering hundreds of signatures on the Ohio BMV Petition to Establish An Organizational License Plate. This popular grassroots effort has taken place both in Ohio and Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

I, along with over 1,000 graduates of Alabama in Ohio, and many more anticipating a branded Alabama license plate, ask for your support for HB 458. Thank you for your consideration, and as we say at Alabama... Roll Tide!

Louis E. Mays

President

CrimsonAti: Greater Cincinnati Chapter

University of Alabama National Alumni Association

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