

Thank you Chairman Green, Vice-Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of House Bill 458.

I am a native Ohioan myself. Born in Dayton and now living with my husband in Clermont county outside Cincinnati and have two stepsons currently in college at The Ohio State University. I was blessed with the opportunity to attend the Capstone College of Nursing at The University of Alabama (UA) and graduated in 1998. I spent several years working at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota which is part of the Mayo Clinic before settling down in Ohio where I worked for the Mercy health system until 2015. I have served on the health commission at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Anderson township and am currently a member of the Catholic Medical Association with guilds in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

I helped establish the Cincinnati chapter of The University of Alabama National Alumni Association (NAA) after the terrible F4 tornado hit Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 2013. Alabama alumni, fans and parents from all over the Greater Cincinnati area were looking for ways to help. We quickly realized the best thing we could do was to support our students, parents and families here in Ohio. Our number one priority was to begin work on endowing Ohio's first dedicated and endowed scholarship for students attending the university in an effort to help ease the financial burden on the parents as well as students after college.

Ideally, everyone could find the education and financial resources to attend school here in Ohio, unfortunately this isn't always possible or to their advantage. Students seek opportunities out of state for many different reasons both as undergraduates and graduates. For example, about one third of our state legislatures have attended school at one time or another out of state. We do not have an extraordinary number of students who leave the state for educational purposes, and even fewer attend school as far away as Alabama, but for those who do many come back home to begin their families and careers. I would like to mention that our Ohio chapters organize mentors for our students while they are away at school and local networking assistance when they are ready to return from college.

Endowing a scholarship is difficult, never mind three or four scholarships, but when you are serving over 500 students you aim to help as many as possible. So,

when I saw a car on the road in front of me with a Notre Dame license plate logo last year, I was ecstatic. The NAA has had a license plate program for many years and has already partnered with eight additional states. This is a great way to raise money for our Ohio scholarships, not to mention our Ohio Public Safety Highway Fund. I was equally as happy to see that the Notre Dame plate initiative passed the House and Senate without one single Nay vote.

H.B. 458 prohibits the use of funds by the university for any administrative costs and every allocated dollar will go to our Ohio student's education through our Ohio endowed scholarships.

I sincerely appreciate your time today and hope you are able to appreciate the value this specialized license plate program adds to the education of our Ohio residents and to the future growth of our state. I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation and welcome any questions you may have at this time.

Thank you.

Mrs. Mikki F. Doerger

Scholarship Committee

Greater Cincinnati Chapter of The University of Alabama National Alumni Association (CrimsonAti)