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**Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE)  
House Bill 62 – Interested Party Testimony  
Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee  
March 19, 2019**

Chair McColley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, first and foremost I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 62, the biennial transportation budget. My name is Diane Howard, I am a member of NOBLE, Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality. NOBLE is a coalition of individuals and organizations advocating on behalf of consumers of State Health and Human Services programs. We are low-income citizens who are most impacted by budget decisions and reductions at the State, Local and Federal levels.

I am also a long-time public transportation user and many of my neighbors are also public transit riders. We rely heavily on public transportation to do our shopping, to get to our appointments, and to get to our jobs. Today I speak on behalf of NOBLE, my neighbors and the thousands of people across the state who rely on public transportation for our daily needs.

We are facing a crisis. State support for public transportation is among the lowest in the country. I ask that the State legislature consider adequately funding public transportation now and for the future. Also, the state has requested and been accepted for work requirements for Medicaid expansion recipients. I ask you today, how can we work if we don't have adequate transportation to our jobs? Today I ask that at least \$150 million dollars be invested in public transportation, this recommendation comes from a study done by The Ohio department of Public Transportation in 2015. It is important to remember that Ohio is stronger when transportation is affordable and accessible. Thank you for your time and consideration.