



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee

Senate Bill 134 – Proponent Testimony

Scott DiMauro – President, Ohio Education Association

October 2, 2019

Chair McColley and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, my name is Scott DiMauro. I am currently in my 29th year in education, which includes 16 years in the classroom as a high school social studies teacher. I currently serve as the president of the Ohio Education Association (OEA).

On behalf of the OEA's 123,000 members, thank you for this opportunity to provide Proponent testimony on Senate Bill 134, "The School Bus Safety Act."

Senate Bill 134 takes important steps to improve student safety by increasing the fines and penalties for drivers who disregard school bus safety laws. Further, the bill clarifies that school bus cameras are permitted to be used as evidence to prove the identity of a driver. An important appropriation of \$500,000 helps school districts purchase cameras. Finally, the bill designates the month of August as "School Bus Safety Awareness" month. This will increase awareness of the need to stop properly when a bus is loading and unloading students.

In closing, OEA appreciates and supports the work of Sen. Gavarone on this important student safety issue. Senate Bill 134 is necessary legislation. OEA encourages the passage of this bill.