



FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 179
Fulton County Sheriff Roy Miller
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Chairman McColley, Vice-Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Antonio, I write to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 179. Please support this important legislation that seeks to reverse the decision to no longer require front license plates effective July 1, 2020. This issue has been debated for many years in Ohio and it was the focus of at least two task forces created to study whether we should continue to require two license plates. Standing on its own, the effort to remove the requirement has not been successful and I was disappointed that this important law enforcement tool was removed by its inclusion in a large spending bill earlier this year.

License plates are identification tools for law enforcement. Front plates are used by officers approaching a scene of a crime, allowing them to scan for suspects. By removing the front plate, you remove 50% of vehicle identification for officers and the general public that uses license plates for Amber and Silver Alerts.

Front plates are also instrumental in identifying and prosecuting drivers that do not stop for school buses. Bus drivers almost exclusively use the front plate to identify violators and report them to law enforcement.

Surveillance cameras near the scene of a crime are valuable tools for law enforcement. Convenience store and parking lot cameras focus on the front plate and the driver's face for positive identification and crime scene reconstruction. Home surveillance systems like Nest and Ring doorbells are growing in popularity and continue to advance. As you know, package thieves do not typically back into driveways.

31 states and nearly every country in the world require two license plates. For these reasons, I ask that you reconsider removal of Ohio's front license plate requirement. Please listen to law enforcement on this critical issue, and pass Senate Bill 179.

Yours in Safety, Service and Protection,

Roy Miller
Fulton County Sheriff

RM/kw