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Medina County Sheriff Tom Miller  
Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 179  
December 11, 2019

Chair McColley, Vice-Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Antonio, thank you for this opportunity to provide written proponent testimony to Senate Bill 179. Each year there is a debate on whether to keep two plates, and each year law enforcement adamantly defends the importance of the front plate in solving crimes and keeping our roads safe. I was greatly disappointed earlier this year when a decision to remove this important tool was slipped into a transportation spending bill allowing little opportunity for public input on the provision.

While I can appreciate the added step that is involved in affixing a front license plate, I can unequivocally tell you that two plates are the least expensive, most effective tools available to law enforcement.

More than 70 percent of all serious crimes involve a motor vehicle in the United States. This includes kidnapping, violent crime, major theft, drug smuggling and more. Front plates allow agents to identify a vehicle's registration while traveling in the opposite direction as the target vehicle. By removing one plate, you remove 50 percent of law enforcement's ability to apprehend criminals.

The front plate is an important public safety tool. It is the only reflective surface on the front of a car, which is important in identifying vehicles that may be parked on the side of the road. It also doubles the potential for identifying a vehicle involved in an Amber or Silver alert.

The importance of the front plate greatly outweighs any short-term savings the state would see from removing the requirement. I'd like to thank Senator Jay Hottinger and former Senator Joe Uecker for bringing this issue back to light and allowing the individuals that utilize this important tool every day to weigh in on reinstating the front plate requirement in the Revised Code. I ask for your support on this important issue, and I stand ready to provide you any additional information that you may need as you consider this legislation

*Sheriff Tom Miller*