

Chairman McColley, Vice-Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, my name is Jeff Vrabel, Sr. I am a two-time Past President of the Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation and have served on various state and national boards throughout my more than twenty-three years as a pupil transportation administrator.

Ohio Revise Code Section 4511.75 (A) states *“(A) The driver of a vehicle, streetcar, or trackless trolley upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child, person attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and county boards of developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered by a head start agency, shall stop at least ten feet from the front or rear of the school bus and shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed.”*

Many school districts across Ohio use video technology inside their school buses to monitor various things. In the districts where I have worked, we instruct our school bus drivers to hit their “event marker,” a system where pressing a button will mark the recorded images for easy location at a later time, when someone violates ORC 4511.75 (A) and fails to stop when the eight-way warning system, or the stop lights and stop arm, are operating. We also instruct our drivers to say out loud the type of vehicle, driver description, and full or partial license plate number. This allows administrative staff to hear what the driver saw.

By removing the front license plate from motor vehicles in Ohio, not only will school bus drivers be at a severe disadvantage, but I believe law enforcement will as well.

I ask for your support of Senate Bill 179, and to retain and continue the current law requiring the display of two license plates for most motor vehicles.