

# Board of County Commissioners

Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D. Craig LaHote Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus



April 8, 2021

The Honorable Haraz Ghanbari  
Ohio State Representative  
77 S. High Street  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: HB 206 - Township Officer Patrol and Enforcement Authority on Interstate Highways

Dear Haraz:

We write in support of your introduced legislation, HB 206, that will amend sections 4513.35 and 4513.39 of the Ohio Revised Code to permit a township police officer who serves a population between 5,000 and 50,000 to enforce specified traffic offenses on interstate highways within the township if authorized by that township's board of trustees.

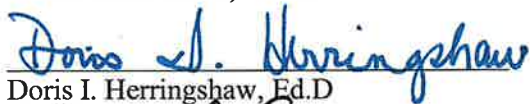
This is an important issue for both Lake Township and Perrysburg Township in Wood County. Each township has heavy traffic on interstates and state roadways that are classified as part of the national highway system extending through their townships. These townships have police departments funded by township tax dollars.

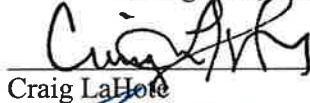
We believe it is appropriate that the township trustees be permitted to determine whether their township police departments provide enforcement on the interstate highways within their jurisdiction. Township trustees are best equipped to evaluate the safety needs of their communities and decide where to focus their police resources.

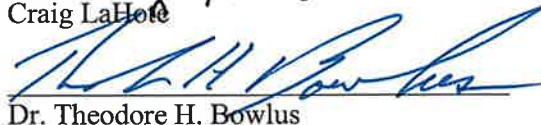
We have great confidence in the law enforcement work performed on the interstate highways by the Wood County Sheriff's Office and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, and believe that additional police officers will only provide greater safety to our residents and those traveling through Wood County.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
WOOD COUNTY, OHIO

  
Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D

  
Craig LaHote

  
Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus

cc: BCC  
Theresa Gavarone, Ohio State Senator  
Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn

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