



House Bill 206 Proponent Testimony April 20, 2021

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Trucking Association (OTA) I would like to express our support for HB 206.

HB 206 would allow more township police officers to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to better enforce Ohio's traffic laws. OTA supports efforts to improve roadway safety and we believe encouraging interagency collaboration will reduce accidents and ultimately save lives.

More importantly, increasing police authority on our interstates can improve efforts to target more serious violations like human and drug trafficking. OTA has been particularly supportive of the state's efforts to combat human trafficking. Often, the driving community acts as the first line of defense against this activity, which is why the trucking industry throughout the nation has joined the fight against this widespread problem. By partnering with Truckers Against Trafficking, Ohio became the first state to mandate that all commercial driving schools teach students about human trafficking. Through this training, drivers are better equipped to identify potential victims and how to report suspicious activity. Truckers Against Trafficking has trained nearly 1,000,000 drivers. Through these efforts, thousands of tips have been received and over 1,000 victims have been helped.

OTA applauds the sponsors on their diligent work in developing this important legislation and we urge this committee's support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom B".

Thomas A. Balzer, CAE
President and CEO
Ohio Trucking Association

655 Cooper Rd.
Westerville, OH 43081
614-221-5375
www.ohiotrucking.org