



Rodney Creech

Sponsor Testimony, February 14th 2022

State Representative

H.B. 494

43rd District

House Transportation and Public Safety Committee

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Members of the Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 494, which would allow for the creation of “school adjacent zones” on any street or highway that is within a half mile of a school.

In my district, National Trail Local Schools has seen many traffic incidents surrounding the school district. National Trail, unfortunately, lies between two major roadways: US-40 and Interstate 70. When there is heavy traffic or an accident on one of these major roadways, drivers tend to cut across to the other to save time on their commute. This has not only caused several accidents and traffic incidents, it is a constant danger to children and educators who may be walking to or from school.

HB 494 will allow a school district to make a proposal to their local legislative authority for the creation of a “school adjacent zone,” in addition to a traditional 20mph school zone. The proposed zone must accomplish three things:

1. It must designate the proposed speed limit for roads and highways within the zone and the hours when those speed limits are in effect;
2. The legislative authority must consult with the school administration and county engineer, or other appropriate engineer prior to adopting it; and
3. The legislative authority must submit it to the Director of Transportation for approval.

If a proposal is approved, the new zone will also require signage to giving fair notice to drivers.

HB 494 is a simple, common sense bill to help slow traffic and provide students with a safer route to and from school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 494. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.