

Proponent Testimony – HB 423

November 29, 2022

Ohio House State and Local Government Committee

Jeff Iula, President of Akron Area Box Derby

Chair Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 423. My name is Jeff Iula. I have been involved in Soap Box Derby racing in Ohio for over 60 years, serving as the general manager of the All-American Soap Box Derby for 45 years, now serving as President of the Akron Area Soap Box Derby, and a member of the International Soap Box Derby Hall of Fame.

Soap Box Derby racing has a rich and storied history in Ohio, and has given our youth a one-of-a-kind opportunity to participate with science and engineering firsthand. Allowing kids to learn and compete in this event has undoubtedly sparked the creativity and work ethic of thousands of kids across the world, and has forged a legacy of which Akron and Ohio can be very proud. I am offering my support today to House Bill 423 because it recognizes the hard work, ingenuity, and sportsmanship of our communities and our state, and gives well-deserved praise to this unique event that Ohio is so fortunate to host.

Thank you again to the members of the committee for your consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.