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## OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee Senate Bill 23 – Proponent Written Testimony

## Scott DiMauro – President, Ohio Education Association February 9, 2021

Good afternoon Chair Hoagland, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee. My name is Scott DiMauro. I am president of the Ohio Education Association (OEA) and currently in my 30th year in education, which includes 16 years in the classroom as a high school social studies teacher.

On behalf of the OEA's 123,000 member educators, including school bus drivers, thank you for the opportunity to provide Proponent testimony on Senate Bill 23, "The School Bus Safety Act."

OEA supports Senate Bill 23 (R-Gavarone). This bill takes steps to support the work of school bus drivers and improve the safety of students at school bus stops.

The bill expressly authorizes cameras to be installed on school buses and establishes a framework that can potentially provide law enforcement more tools and methods to hold accountable those who disregard school bus safety laws.

In addition, the bill supports public awareness around this safety issue by declaring August "School Bus Safety Awareness" month.

More education about the need to always stop properly when a bus is loading and unloading students is critical.

OEA encourages the passage of Senate Bill 23.

