



## **Testimony for House Bill 566**

**State Representative Jack Daniels, District 32**

**House Commerce and Labor Committee**

**November 13th, 2024**

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Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify with my joint-sponsor, Representative Mohamed, on House Bill 566.

House Bill 566 makes three common-sense changes to Ohio's point system for commercial driver's licenses. It reduces the duration that points remain on a CDL holder's license from two years to one year. Similarly, the bill reduces the timeframe in which a CDL holder can accumulate 12 or more points to trigger a suspension from two years to one year. The bill also allows CDL holders to complete a remedial driving course once per year. Completion of this course results in a two-point reduction of the drivers record. Under current law, drivers are only able to take these classes every three years. This bill addresses the many of the unique challenges faced by trucking companies and commercial drivers.

The country has been facing a shortage of commercial drivers for quite some time now. The American Trucking Association currently estimates a shortage of around 60,000 drivers.

Regions such as the Midwest and Northeast have reported particularly high demand for truck drivers compared to available supply. This is a pressing issue for the industry; according to a survey conducted by the ATA, 80% of carriers consider the shortage of qualified drivers as their top concerns. The shortage directly impacts their ability to meet shipping demands. We must do everything in our power as a legislature to support and strengthen our industries, including addressing these major labor shortages.

Commercial drivers tend to be ticketed at higher rates than civilians. This makes sense as they spend far more time on the road, compared to the average citizen. The average citizen drives 10,000 miles per year while the average commercial driver drives 125,000 miles per year; that's a 115,000 mile difference. This enormous difference exposes them to more traffic incidents. The FMCSA, the organization responsible for tracking violations and enforcement actions against commercial drivers, indicates frequent enforcement of minor violations such as 1-5 mile over speeding, improper lane changes, or time-of-service violations. The impact of these tickets is far greater for commercial vehicles, as points add up much quicker for a CDL than a standard license. Drivers are not able to work despite only having minor infractions, contributing to the labor shortage. House Bill 566 is a step in solving this issue.

Chairman Johnson and all members of the committee, please join me in supporting our commercial drivers. House Bill 566 represents a positive step forward for Ohio's trucking industry. This bill is not just making simple regulatory adjustments, rather, it is about supporting the backbone of our economy- the hardworking men and women who drive our trucks day and night. Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 566. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.