

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 566. This bill aims to provide a more reasonable and flexible approach for commercial drivers who have accumulated points on their driver's licenses. Specifically, it allows these drivers to take a remedial driving course at an earlier and more manageable time, helping them avoid prolonged disruptions to their employment.

As we review the legislation, I want to emphasize the importance of ensuring that drivers with minimal offenses are not unnecessarily sidelined. By shortening the waiting period for remedial courses, we allow these drivers to return to work quickly, keeping skilled individuals in the commercial driving industry. This not only benefits the drivers but also the broader transportation sector, which is critical to the economy.

The current law requires a two-year waiting period before a driver can take a remedial course, which may be too harsh, especially when dealing with minor infractions. Such a long delay does not account for the individual circumstances that may have contributed to a driver's offense. In many cases, this strict, blanket approach fails to consider the factors that may have influenced the situation, and it can result in overly punitive consequences for drivers who are otherwise safe and reliable.

The need for flexibility in the timeframe for commercial drivers cannot be overstated. These drivers play a vital role in maintaining both interstate and in-

state economic supply chains. For this reason, it is important that we ensure they are not unnecessarily penalized for minor violations. Providing flexibility allows them to resume their duties without unnecessary delays, which is crucial for both the drivers and the industries they serve.

To address these concerns, I propose changing certain sections of the current Revised Code to replace the rigid two-year waiting period with a more flexible "applicable period." This adjustment would allow the circumstances of each case to be more thoroughly examined, providing a fairer and more tailored approach for drivers seeking to get back to work.

In conclusion, H.B. 566 strikes an important balance between ensuring road safety and supporting the needs of our critical commercial driving workforce. By allowing for more flexibility in the timing of remedial courses, we can help keep skilled drivers on the road while maintaining the integrity of our licensing system.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your support of this important legislation.