



**Representative Steve Demetriou**

**35th House District**

**House Homeland Security Committee**

**House Bill 248 Sponsor Testimony**

**Create the suicide prevention license plate**

**November 15th, 2023**

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the House Homeland Security Committee, thank you again for allowing Representative Manchester and I the opportunity to speak about House Bill 248.

The "Suicide Prevention License Plate" bill originated from a profoundly tragic personal experience of the McClintock family. In 2012, Debbie McClintock lost both her husband and her son within a few months of each other. The McClintock family approached OSPF, seeking an Ohio Suicide Prevention and 988 specialized license plate to raise awareness, combat mental health stigmas, and prevent further loss of lives.

Having 988 and OSPF on license plates across Ohio will have two positive impacts:

- It will help spread a message of hope and healing to communities, reminding people that help is available by simply calling 988.
- It will raise funds that will stay in Ohio to support suicide prevention efforts in our state.

I urge your support for the Suicide Prevention License Plate bill, a tangible step toward a safer and more compassionate Ohio. Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to this important legislation. Representative Manchester, and I, are happy to answer any questions.