



Representative Roy Klopfenstein

82<sup>nd</sup> House District

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and esteemed members of the House Homeland Security Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 425.

Currently, it costs up to \$1,000 to attend driver's training in Ohio, and the waiting list to enroll in a class can take months, causing some students to give up and postpone obtaining a driver's license until they turn 18. However, technology is being developed that could be used to modernize in-car instruction. This new technology will assist parents and their teens during two of the most important parts of their driver training: 50 hours of parent coaching and 8 hours of in-car driving evaluation. The new technology will validate that the proper number of practice hours have been completed, monitor speed, braking intensity, and other metrics, and target areas where drivers need the most practice, whether it's merging, navigating roundabouts, or highway driving.

Unfortunately, current law prohibits parents from being able to provide the 8 hours of in-car instruction, and this legislation will change this provision to permit it if the parents are using an electronic education device or application approved by the Department of Public Safety. It is important to note that this is completely permissive, and if any safety concerns arise, the Department of Public Safety maintains the ability to conduct evaluations of the application and would have the authority to approve or deny any application.

Furthermore, it is not our intent to replace the current driver's education system; this is a way to increase capacity, ease an overburdened system, and fill gaps across the state where students do not have access to a driving school. I also believe that this technology could and will be used by traditional schools as well.

This is an opportunity for Ohio to serve as a leader, with new technology being developed by an Ohio company that will create better and safer drivers. I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you all for your time, and I will pass things over to my joint sponsor, Representative Kick.