



**Before the House State and Local Government Committee
House Bill 490 – Road Traffic Victims Day of Remembrance
Sponsor Testimony by Representative Michael J. Skindell
November 20, 2024**

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony with my joint sponsor Rep. Beryl Brown Piccolantonio on House Bill 490. This legislation designates the third Sunday in November as "Road Traffic Victims Day of Remembrance."

This day honors the people killed or seriously injured on the roads of Ohio and to encourage road safety and support for crash survivors and their families.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.19 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes and an additional 20 to 50 million more people suffer non-fatal injuries.

People in the U.S. are experiencing the highest number of roadway deaths in 16 years, as well as the highest number of deaths amongst people walking in 40 years. Additionally, more than half of all road traffic deaths are among vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

This day will coincide with the World Day of Remembrance, a high-profile global event to remember the many millions who have been killed and injured on the world's roads and to acknowledge the suffering of all those affected.

It is clear that roadway deaths are a continually growing problem in our state, country and our world. By designating the "Road Traffic Victims Day of Remembrance" in Ohio, we will show crash survivors and their families that we stand with them in their grief and pain and that we will continue to advocate and protect all road users.

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for your consideration of H.B. 490. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.