



House Transportation Committee
House Bill 140 Proponent Testimony
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Ohio Association of School Business Officials
Ohio School Boards Association

Chairman McClain, Vice Chairman Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 140. Collectively, our organizations represent public school superintendents, school board members, treasurers/CFOs and other school business officials from around the state.

On any given day, hundreds of thousands of Ohio students travel nearly 1 million miles on more than 14,000 yellow school buses. Along those journeys, thousands of motorists illegally pass school buses while loading or unloading children. In 2021, the Ohio Department of Public Safety reported more than 14,000 citations were issued over a four-year period for illegally passing school buses, equating to roughly 3,500 per year. But a 2019 survey of school bus drivers conducted by the Ohio School Boards Association reveals the magnitude of these offenses are much larger than the citations issued: nearly one-third of Ohio school bus drivers reported that more than 1,500 school buses were illegally passed on just one school day, according to the survey.

Clearly, these dangerous incidents are placing children's lives at risk, and HB 140 would make positive steps forward to enhance school bus safety and mitigate these unnecessary and dangerous occurrences. HB 140 would enhance and create new financial and driver license-related penalties for failing to stop for a school bus. It also would also clarify that cameras may be installed on school buses in order to capture an image and or video of a person improperly passing a school bus, allowing those recordings to be used as evidence in a criminal case. Finally, it would require new graphics to be displayed at deputy registrars to educate drivers when and how to stop and yield for school buses that are loading or unloading students.

Our members appreciate Representative Brown for introducing this legislation that will have a positive impact on student safety through enhanced enforcement, increased equipment capabilities, and additional education for motorists. We look forward to working with the General Assembly and with Gov. Mike DeWine through the School Bus Safety Working Group to make changes that will improve the safety of Ohio students

during their journeys to and from school.

Chairman McClain and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for your time and attention. We urge your support for HB 140 and would be happy to address your questions at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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