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### **Sponsor Testimony Senate Bill 112**

Chairman Brenner and members of the Senate Education committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 112 also known as the Ohio Childhood Safety Act. Senate Bill 112 addresses a real solution for potential deficiencies in school building security.

Ohio Childhood Safety Act would require school doors to meet the same standards as those deemed "secured facilities" such as hospitals. These codes include doors that could deny entry or exit to unwanted intruders, as well as making sure fire inspectors inspect the doors once a year to make sure everything is up to code. Below are some points that further demonstrate the importance of Senate Bill 112:

- Having code-compliant doors in schools is critical for several reasons, including fire safety, life safety, and school security. Building codes and standards exist to ensure that buildings are constructed and equipped with safety features that meet minimum requirements to protect occupants from harm.
- In the case of fire safety, doors that meet building codes and standards are designed to help prevent the spread of flames and smoke throughout a building. Fire-rated doors are engineered to withstand the effects of fire for a specified period, allowing occupants to evacuate the building safely. Additionally, fire-rated doors can help prevent the collapse of walls and ceilings in the event of a fire, further protecting occupants and first responders.
- Code-compliant doors are also important for life safety. Doors that meet safety standards are designed to provide unobstructed and accessible means of egress from a building, allowing occupants to exit quickly and safely during an emergency. This is particularly important in the event of a school shooting or other security threat, where the ability to evacuate a building quickly and safely can mean the difference between life and death. Every second counts in an emergency situation
- In addition to fire safety and life safety concerns, code-compliant doors are essential for school security. Doors that meet building codes and standards are designed to resist forced entry and unauthorized access, helping to prevent intruders from entering school buildings. Furthermore,

properly designed, installed, and maintained doors can serve as a critical component of an overall school security plan, helping to deter potential threats and providing valuable time for students and staff to implement emergency response procedures.

Overall, code-compliant doors play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of school occupants. By adhering to building codes and standards, schools can provide a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff alike.

Senate Bill 112 is a solution to the coined term, “Do Something”, when it comes to protecting our children from mass shooters in our schools. Don’t our kids deserve the same protection as those in hospitals, airports, and government buildings? We need to strive to create a safe environment in order for our children to thrive. This bill is a critical step to improving the safety of Ohio’s bright future.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 112 and I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Rulli".

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