



**STATEMENT OF THE OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 37**

Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Nathan Manning, Chair

Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: On behalf of the Ohio State Bar Association (“OSBA”), thank you for the opportunity to present written-only testimony on Senate Bill 37.

The OSBA appreciates all of the work that has been done by the bill sponsors and interested parties on this issue. The OSBA is generally supportive of the efforts outlined in the substitute bill to limit driver’s license suspensions to dangerous driving offenses and to make it easier for a person to get their license back after complying with court orders and penalties.

As we’ve stated in past testimony, the loss of a driver’s license creates a substantial barrier to employment and productive participation in society. Many of the existing policies are not meeting their intended goals and a comprehensive review of the system is needed.

However, we would like to have additional consideration of some changes made in the substitute bill that may have unintended consequences for the criminal justice system. Specifically, we would urge caution on the changes related to the ability to suspend a license for failure to appear. While we are supportive of efforts to reduce barriers to driving, showing up at court is imperative and the threat of suspending a driver’s license is the least restrictive way of ensuring appearance. We would also like to hear from other organizations on the potential unintended consequences of the changes made in the substitute bill regarding failure to pay child support.

We still believe that Substitute Senate Bill 37 is moving in the right direction. We remain supportive of the overall aim of this legislation but would like the opportunity to work through possible issues with interested parties regarding these specific issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this legislation.

HEADQUARTERS
1700 Lake Shore Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43204

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 16562
Columbus, Ohio 43216-6562

PHONE
(614) 487-2050
(800) 282-6556

FAX & WEB
(614) 487-1008
www.ohioabar.org