



April 23, 2024

Ohio Senate
Senate Transportation Committee
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: The Hilliard Davidson Baseball Club Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 179

To the Honorable Senator Stephanie Kunze and members of the Ohio Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Chad Davis and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 179 and to share how its passing will impact and provide for nearly 100 student athletes each year.

I am here today on behalf of The Hilliard Davidson Baseball Club (HDBC), where I currently act as the Board Vice-President. Founded in 2013, the HDBC is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code - Tax ID 35-2472610 and is the official booster organization that supports The Wildcat Baseball Program at Hilliard Davidson High School.

As a young boy, I was taught the game of baseball by a wonderful coach who happened to be my father, the late Joseph Davis. Dad had a lifelong desire to help players learn life lessons and positive character traits by participating and competing in the great game of baseball. Dad also said that if you want true, true happiness, serve your fellow man!

I stand before you today with an opportunity to make dad proud. You see, baseball and dad got me here in front of you at this very moment. In 1990 I moved from my hometown of Youngstown to Columbus to study and play baseball at The Ohio State University. Shortly after graduation, I met my wife Dana. Shortly after marrying Dana we started a family. Shortly after starting a family I found myself back on the baseball field, this time coaching my boys - with dad in the stands.

Fast forward to the spring of 2022. Dad is now gone and my youngest boy becomes a part of The Wildcat Baseball Program and I get involved in the HDBC. Never really being a numbers guy, it was eye-opening to me the funds required, in addition to the district and athletic department contributions, to operate a high school baseball program. Existing fundraisers in place consisted of Italian sub sales, restaurant spirit nights, fence banner sales and a few others, but I went on a search for more. I wanted something that would provide and continue to provide. I wanted something that would instill pride in the community. I wanted something that the boys and coaches would be proud of. I wanted something that dad would be proud of!



In the fall of 2022 and as a HDBC member at large, I learned of the Organizational / Speciality License Plate Program offered by the Ohio BMV. After some research, I presented the opportunity to the Board and shared my passion to help and provide for the program. One-hundred and fifty plus signatures later, a completed application, conversations with Mike Alverson and help from Senator Stephanie Kunze and her staff – I'M EXCITED!

With your help and the passing of Senate Bill 179, I am confident this program will generate additional funding for:

- Various team activities
- Varsity spring trip
- Improved facilities & safety equipment
- Purchase of game uniforms
- Senior night & banners
- Field maintenance and improvements
- Four senior Scholarships
 - 1.) General Baseball Scholarship
 - 2.) Academic Baseball Scholarship
 - 3.) Play at the Next Level Scholarship
 - 4.) Coach Dave Swallie Leadership Scholarship
- As well as, other baseball related expenses
- And most importantly, lesson the fee's parents absorb each season

I hope you see and feel my passion as I firmly believe this program will provide enduring pride for the program and community. In addition, it is a way for me to give back to the game that has given me so much.

In closing, thank you all again for taking the time to hear my story. Your support will demonstrate to the community your unwavering acknowledgement and commitment to the baseball program, its activities, facilities and equipment by enriching the student-athlete experience.

And lastly, it will make dad proud. Thank you!

Chad Davis
2023-24 HDBC Vice-President