



Rep. Meredith Craig
77th Ohio House District

Rep. Melanie Miller
67th Ohio House District

Chairman Thomas, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity for Representative Melanie Miller and I to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 132, also known as Philip Wigal's Law.

HB 132 is inspired by the life and sacrifice of Town and Country Fire Lt. Philip Wigal. On April 11, 2022, Lt. Wigal was struck and killed by a semi-truck while responding to a crash on I-71 near West Salem. The driver of the semi failed to slow down or move over, violating Ohio's Move Over Law and ending the life of a husband, father, and dedicated public servant.

Lt. Wigal left behind a wife, two daughters, and a community still mourning the loss. His death was entirely preventable, and the law should reflect the gravity of what happened.

Currently in Ohio, the penalty for violating the Move Over Law is limited to a \$300 fine. There is no differentiation in the law for repeat violations or for incidents resulting in serious injury or death. HB 132 addresses this by introducing a tiered penalty structure that matches the seriousness of the offense. I would now like to invite Representative Miller to share some details about the legislation.

Thank you Representative Craig, Chair Thomas, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

The proposed penalties under HB 132 are as follows:

- **First violation:** Fine up to \$300 (maintains current law)
- **Second or subsequent violation within one year:** Fine up to \$1,000
- **Violation resulting in injury:** Fine up to \$5,000 and potential driver's license suspension
- **Violation resulting in death:** Fine up to \$10,000, license suspension, and a charge of vehicular homicide

This approach is not without precedent. HB 132 is similar to legislation enacted in Oklahoma, where a tiered system of penalties has been used to enforce compliance with that state's Move Over Law. By escalating the consequences based on severity and repeat offenses, Oklahoma has recognized, and we agree, that deterrence and accountability go hand-in-hand. Ohio should adopt a similar model to better protect our first responders and emergency personnel.

This legislation is both a memorial and a commitment to do better, to be better, and to stand up for those who protect and serve us. HB 132 would send a clear and unambiguous message: failing to move over is not a minor oversight; it is a potentially fatal act of negligence.

We respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 132. Thank you Chair Thomas and members of the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony. We welcome any questions from the committee at this time.