



**Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
House Bill 132 – Proponent Testimony
House Judiciary Committee**

Chair Thomas, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony today on House Bill 132.

My name is Robert Butler and I am here on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, representing law enforcement professionals across the state as President of the organization. I also serve as the Chief of the Independence Police Department.

We thank Representatives Craig and Melanie Miller for sponsoring this important legislation, which aims to strengthen Ohio’s “Move Over” law—an essential safeguard designed to protect our first responders, law enforcement officers, tow operators, and highway workers from the dangers posed by inattentive or reckless motorists.

Since the tragic death of **Lieutenant Philip Michael Wigal** in 2022—a dedicated firefighter with more than 15 years of service whose life was taken while responding to a crash on I-71—too many similar incidents have occurred on Ohio’s roads. These include:

- A fatal crash in **April 2023** on I-275 in **Hamilton County** that claimed the lives of a **tow truck driver** and two others.
- The **November 2023** death of a **Cleveland firefighter** on I-90, struck while on duty at the scene of a highway hazard.
- A **February 2024** crash on I-71 in **Medina County**, where a motorist was killed after colliding with a stationary ODOT plow truck.
- Additionally, over the past four years, the **Ohio State Highway Patrol** reports that **55 patrol cruisers** were struck while stopped on the roadside—resulting in **two deaths, 29 injuries to members of the public, and 16 injured troopers** ([WTRF News Report](#)).

House Bill 132 proposes much-needed reforms that we fully support, including:

- **Enhanced penalties** for violations of the Move Over law, including increased fines and potential license suspensions;

- The creation of a new **vehicular assault offense** for drivers whose violations result in serious harm to emergency personnel or others;
- And new **maximum fine provisions** that underscore the seriousness of noncompliance.

Put simply, compliance with the Move Over law is a matter of **life and death**. These changes, coupled with strong enforcement by law enforcement and the judiciary—and the continued educational efforts of the Ohio Department of Public Safety—will help reduce preventable crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police strongly supports House Bill 132 and urges the committee to move it forward to the full House for a floor vote.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like further information about our position on this legislation.