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Testimony in Support of Ohio Senate Bill 212

Presented to the Ohio House of Representatives Transportation Committee

March 16, 2026

Chair Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patrick Salva, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Southern Ohio PGA and our charitable foundation, PGA REACH Southern Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 212.

Before I begin, I want to share some background about our organization as we are often confused with our friends at the PGA Tour. We are the 550 men and women that serve as Golf Professionals in Southern Ohio; not professional golfers. We like to say that we are not the ones that play for millions; we're the ones that bring millions to the game of golf.

One of 41 Sections of the PGA of America, our members serve as Head Professionals, General Managers and Instructors at golf courses all over the state of Ohio. They are the leaders of the golf industry who are committed to using the game of golf to impact our communities through all that it teaches.

PGA REACH Southern Ohio is our charitable organization. Along with our counterparts at the Northern Ohio PGA and their charitable foundation, we try to make an impact in our communities through three pillars; Veterans, Youth and Access.

PGA HOPE is the flagship program under our veteran pillar. PGA HOPE is our free, six week adaptive golf program for veterans and active-duty military to improve their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. In 2025, we hosted 45 programs at 33 golf facilities across the state, impacting more than 650 veterans. We continue investing in the program as demand grows and the waitlist expands.

Under our youth pillar, we have programs like Clubs for Kids where we provide free golf instruction and properly fitted equipment to children who may not otherwise have the chance to participate. The impact is real and lasting, and I

have seen first hand how kids gained more than just the fundamentals of a sport; they developed confidence, discipline, and a sense of belonging in a safe, structured environment.

Through our access pillar, both organizations conduct robust scholarship programs to impact young people on their journey through higher education. In Southern Ohio alone, we've awarded more than \$80k over the past four years and continue to expand this program.

The unique power of golf is its ability to instill lifelong values like integrity, resilience, and respect in our youth. By supporting Senate Bill 212, we can ensure these life-changing opportunities are not limited by geography. Our goal is to scale our existing infrastructure to reach every corner of the state, bringing high-quality programming to rural communities and urban centers alike, and ensuring that no Ohioan is priced out of the game's character-building benefits.

On behalf of the Southern and Northern Ohio PGA Sections and the thousands of families we serve from the Ohio River to Lake Erie, I respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 212. Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to expanding these vital programs to every community in our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Salva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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