Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee
House Bill 3 Testimony
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
April 15, 2026

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chairman Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 3. My name is Paul Imhoff with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, which represents Ohio's public school superintendents. I also had the pleasure of serving on the Ohio School Bus Safety Task Force as an appointee of Governor Mike DeWine.

On any given day, hundreds of thousands of Ohio students travel nearly 1 million miles on more than 14,000 yellow school buses. Along those journeys, thousands of motorists illegally pass school buses while loading or unloading children. In 2021, the Ohio Department of Public Safety reported more than 14,000 citations were issued over a four-year period for illegally passing school buses, equating to roughly 3,500 per year. But a 2019 survey of school bus drivers conducted by the Ohio School Boards Association reveals the magnitude of these offenses may be much larger than the citations issued: nearly one-third of Ohio school bus drivers reported that more than 1,500 school buses were illegally passed on just one school day, according to the survey. Clearly, these dangerous incidents are placing children's lives at risk, and HB 3 would make positive steps forward to enhance school bus safety and mitigate these unnecessary and dangerous occurrences.

HB 3 would make the following essential enhancements for student safety:
• enhance and create new financial and driver license-related penalties for failing to stop for a school bus;
• clarify that cameras may be installed on school buses in order to capture an image and or video of a person improperly passing a school bus, allowing those recordings to be used as evidence in criminal and civil cases;
• create the School Bus Safety Fund and Grant Program, under which schools can apply for funding to improve the safety features on their school buses;
• designate August as "School Bus Safety Month" to increase public awareness of this critical safety issue.

Our members appreciate Representatives Willis and Thomas for their steadfast advocacy on this legislation that will have a positive impact on student safety through enhanced enforcement, increased equipment capabilities, and additional education for motorists. We urge you to support HB 3, which will improve the safety of Ohio students during their journeys to and from school.

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for your time and attention. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.