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**Ohio 136TH General Assembly  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
SB62 Proponent Testimony  
March 05, 2025**

**Chair Manning, Madam Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Senator Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to present proponent testimony on SB62. A bill labeled deep in the care of safety for our school bus children in Ohio.**

**I'm Tim Johnson, a retired law enforcement officer, a US Air Force veteran and the founder of Safety First 101, a consulting and training service company focused on the safety and security disciplines for various entities.**

**As a police officer I was assigned for many years to cover the safety and security issues for 18 different schools to include traffic enforcement focused on school bus safety.**

**The act of investigating traffic incident violations on school buses in Ohio is very tedious to say the least, if not witnessed by an officer. The procedures follow this format;**

- 1- Notification from the bus driver, complaint filed.**
- 2- The bus driver must be able to provide a description of the vehicle, driver and license plate and provide a written statement.**
- 3- The Officer investigates the complaint and gathers the information from the bus driver creating an incident report.**
- 4- The Officer follows up with the provided information only if a license plate is provided or other factors lead the Officer to a possible subject.**
- 5- The Officer issues a citation if the subject admits or the evidence is clear. Court appearance is mandatory.**
- 6- The Officer and bus driver must appear in court to testify and identify the subject. All evidence must be presented.**

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This process is cumbersome, time consuming and can add financial strain on both the Police Department and the school bus garage.

The question now is how and who pays for this safety tool to protect our children?

**Solution;**

Redact the current SB59 which addresses the removal of taxes on firearms and ammunition. Create a sub bill to increase the state tax rate on firearms and ammunition. This additional tax revenue to the state shall now be appropriated to pay for the installation of cameras on all stop sign arms to Ohio school buses.

While the focus of safety for our children and public safety as a whole is of paramount concern in Ohio's legislature this presents a true caring reality to employ a safety tool for our school bus children while addressing a primary public safety concern over firearms and the deaths they bring to our communities.

In Safety,  
*Tim Johnson*  
Founder / President  
Safety First 101  
614.736.1861  
timj.safetyfirst101@gmail.com