



## Senate Judiciary Committee Testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 62

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, Chair Manning, and members of the committee.

As champions for increased safety, we know that nothing is more sacred than the safety of our children. In Ohio and across the nation, we've seen a dramatic rise in reckless driving that puts children at risk – this reckless driving behavior happens all too frequently around school buses. School bus safety is now a priority issue for the State of Ohio. SB 62 provides a framework for communities to use school bus violation detection monitoring systems to better enforce the school bus stopping laws of this state, curb dangerous driving behavior, and ultimately save lives.

The use of school bus violation detection monitoring systems for civil traffic enforcement is already legal in 28 states, including neighboring states like Michigan, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. Florida passed a law very similar in structure to this legislation just last year – demonstrating that student and school bus safety is an important issue that resonates with communities across party lines.

The framework contemplated in this legislation enshrines rigorous safeguards and checks and balances to promote transparency and integrity across the state. The use of school bus violation detection monitoring systems would be permissive – not mandated – and subject to an agreement between a school district and a law enforcement agency. By design, the school district receives the revenues stemming from camera-based violations, which it can use to defray the cost of the systems and operate the program in a cost-efficient manner. Law enforcement can view video evidence, exclusively make an enforcement determination, and is reimbursed for their time spent supporting the enforcement of a local program. As a result of the legislative design here and in model legislation adopted in states such as Florida, municipalities are not financially incentivized to issue tickets that are undeserved.

Communities that have adopted school bus violation detection monitoring system programs have seen dramatic reductions in violations and a much more mindful driving culture around school buses. The data is clear that law enforcement resources inhibit proper enforcement of this critical student safety law, and that when appropriately applied, technology can be force multiplier for public safety.

Thank you.

**CONTACT:**

**Ryan Monell**

Senior Vice President

BusPatrol America

[ryan.monell@buspatrol.com](mailto:ryan.monell@buspatrol.com)