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Testimony in Support of Ohio Senate Bill 212

Presented to the Ohio Senate Transportation Committee

June 16, 2025

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Shaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, 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. It is a forward-thinking measure that supports youth development and expands access to meaningful extracurricular opportunities for kids across Ohio.

At PGA REACH Southern Ohio, we are committed to using the game of golf as a vehicle for positive youth development. We have accomplished just that through a number of programs meant to break down barriers of entry to the game of golf.

Through our Clubs for Kids program, 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.

Senate Bill 212 will strengthen youth initiatives not just in Southern Ohio, but across the entire state, including through the efforts of our colleagues in Northern Ohio. Together, our two PGA Sections serve thousands of children annually through programs designed to teach life skills, promote physical activity, and foster character development. Clubs for Kids is a cornerstone of those efforts.

Golf is uniquely positioned to instill values that serve young people well throughout their lives. It's one thing to learn integrity, patience, resilience, and respect – it's another thing to put those ideals into

practice and our programs give children the space to do just that. With the support of this legislation, we can expand our reach, grow participation in underserved areas, and continue shaping the next generation of leaders through the game of golf.

On behalf of our team, our PGA of America Golf Professionals, and the countless children whose lives are enriched by our programs, I respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 212. Thank you for your leadership and for prioritizing the well-being and development of Ohio's youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Salva", with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Patrick Salva

Executive Director, Southern Ohio PGA & PGA REACH Southern Ohio

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