



October 7, 2025

The Honorable Tom Patton
Chairman, Ohio Senate Transportation Committee
1 Capitol Square
Senate Building, Room 042
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 16

Chairman Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Ohio Trucking Association and its members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written, proponent testimony on Senate Bill 16. This legislation will make Ohio's roads safer both for vehicles in distress and the individuals that drive them.

The trucking industry is essential to Ohio's economy, and our drivers deliver the goods that keep communities running. But too often, our drivers find themselves at risk when their trucks are disabled on the side of the road. A disabled tractor-trailer is not just a roadside inconvenience: it is an incredibly dangerous and stressful situation for the driver. They may be outside their vehicle inspecting equipment, setting up warning triangles, or waiting for a roadside repair or tow while cars pass by at high speeds. Even though they are trained to follow strict safety procedures, they remain vulnerable to passing traffic, especially on high-speed highways where vehicles do not slow down or move over. What should be a routine breakdown can quickly turn into a life-threatening situation.

Senate Bill 16 addresses this problem directly. On a two-lane highway, drivers must slow down and proceed with caution when approaching a disabled vehicle. On a multi-lane highway, drivers should move over to an open lane, if possible, or slow down as they pass. These requirements mirror Ohio's existing "move over" protections for emergency responders, tow operators, and maintenance crews, and extend that same common-sense protection to all stranded motorists. By doing so, this bill will ensure that truck drivers have the same level of protection as anyone else that is in distress on the side of the road.

For the trucking industry, safety is always the top priority. We strongly support Senate Bill 16 because it provides clear expectations for all drivers when approaching a distressed vehicle. Thank you again for this opportunity to submit testimony, and if there are any questions from members of the committee, please feel free to contact me at tom@ohiotrucking.org.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Balzer, CAE
President and CEO
Ohio Trucking Association