



**To: Senate Committee on Transportation**  
**From: Mike Belcuore, Manager of Driver Education and Operations, AAA Club Alliance**  
**Date: Oct. 8, 2025**  
**Re: Support of SB 16 (Prohibit certain actions around a distressed vehicle)**

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Belcuore, and I serve as Manager of Driver Education and Operations for AAA Club Alliance. I am speaking today on behalf of all AAA Clubs in Ohio. Since its founding in 1902, AAA has been a not-for-profit, fully tax-paying organization committed to advocating for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA proudly serves more than 2.5 million members in Ohio.

On behalf of the AAA Clubs in Ohio, I want to express our strong support for legislation that will enhance roadway safety for both motorists and those who work to maintain our roads.

Senate Bill 16 seeks to protect drivers who are stranded on the roadside due to a disabled vehicle, as well as other motorists traveling on the road. A “disabled vehicle” refers to one that is stopped on the side of the road and displaying hazard warning lights, road flares, or caution signals such as traffic cones, caution signs, or reflective triangles.

It is common to encounter disabled vehicles on the roadside. The occupants may be changing a tire, waiting for a tow truck, or dealing with mechanical issues. These situations often involve individuals either inside or outside the vehicle, awaiting assistance.

One tragic example occurred in May of this year near Urbana, Ohio. A 36-year-old man was attempting to change a flat tire on the shoulder of State Route 72, a divided highway with two lanes in each direction. A northbound driver failed to yield the right lane, drifted onto the shoulder, and fatally struck the victim. He was pronounced dead at the scene. His obituary described him as a devoted husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend.

SB 16 would require drivers on two-lane highways to proceed with caution and slow down when passing a disabled vehicle. On multi-lane highways, such as interstates, drivers would be required to move to an adjacent lane, if possible, or slow down when passing a disabled vehicle.

While this may seem like common sense, our current “Move Over” laws do not extend these protections to disabled vehicles, leading to tragic consequences.

Although there is no official crash category for fatalities involving occupants of disabled vehicles, estimates from the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Department of Transportation suggest that between 2018 and 2023, there were approximately 148 such fatalities—an average of 24 deaths per year. These estimates are based on pedestrian fatalities on highways or freeways, many of which likely involved disabled vehicles.

Ohio law already requires drivers to slow down or move over for emergency vehicles, tow trucks, utility vehicles, and maintenance vehicles. However, it does not offer the same protections to stranded motorists—who face similar risks at the roadside. We urge the passage of SB 16 to close this gap and protect all individuals in these vulnerable situations.

It is important to note that this bill does not apply to vehicles that are unattended or abandoned. Such vehicles are typically marked by law enforcement with an orange tag and scheduled for towing.

**We respectfully urge your support for this important legislation. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this matter. I would be happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.**

**Respectfully,**

Mike Belcuore

Manager of Driver Education and Operations

AAA Club Alliance

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