



**Hearcel F. Craig**

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15th District

## **Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 228**

### **Ohio Senate Transportation**

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **Senate Bill 228**, which would create a specialty vehicle license plate supporting one of Central Ohio's most impactful organizations – LifeTown.

LifeTown is a remarkable, 5,000-square-foot interactive learning center and functioning city right here in Central Ohio that is designed especially for children and teens with special needs. The city, complete with a bank, medical and dental offices, a pet store, a library, and a restaurant, is more than just a miniature city. LifeTown is a place where thousands of young people, over 5,000 each year from 20 school districts across seven counties, develop the confidence, independence, and life skills that will carry them into adulthood.

Through hands-on role-playing with trained volunteers, students learn how to manage money, use technology responsibly, interact socially, and prepare for employment, all in a safe, nurturing, and uplifting environment. For many of these students, this is the first time they can practice real-world skills without fear of failure.

LifeTown is a unique and invaluable resource for educators and parents, developed by special education professionals and designed specifically to develop transitional skills.

The LifeTown license plate will not only raise awareness for this one-of-a-kind program, but it will also help sustain and expand its mission to empower youth with special needs to thrive in their communities. Every license plate on the road will represent Ohio's commitment to inclusion, compassion, and opportunity for all.

It is a privilege to bring this legislation forward and to shine a light on the extraordinary work being done at LifeTown. I respectfully ask for your support in passing this important legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.