



Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 228
Senate Transportation Committee

Chairman Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee: thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 228. My name is Rabbi Areyah Kaltmann, and I serve as the Executive Director of LifeTown Columbus, a 5,000-square-foot indoor “mini-city” designed to give students with disabilities hands-on opportunities to practice life, social, and pre-employment skills in a safe, supportive environment. Each year, LifeTown serves thousands of students from across Ohio, helping them gain independence, confidence, and job readiness.

Senate Bill 228 would authorize the creation of a “LifeTown” specialty license plate under the Ohio Revised Code. Ohioans who choose this plate would pay an additional \$25 contribution, \$15 of which would directly support LifeTown’s programming, and \$10 of which would cover administrative costs at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This provides a sustainable, dedicated funding source for LifeTown, helping expand programs and reach more students statewide, without impacting the state’s general fund.

The LifeTown license plate is more than a symbol, it represents Ohio’s commitment to inclusive education and life-skills training for individuals with disabilities. The funds generated will allow LifeTown to enhance our facility, provide new experiential learning opportunities, and support students in transitioning successfully from school to adult life and work.

On behalf of LifeTown Columbus, I respectfully urge the committee to favorably report Senate Bill 228. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.