

October 13, 2015

Chairman Jim Butler
Ohio House of Representatives
13th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Jim Butler and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I apologize that my schedule did not allow me to be present today to testify in person. I wanted to convey my support for Substitute Senate Bill 146 that if enacted, would establish an enhanced penalty for committing a moving violation while distracted.

As a former head coach of the Ohio State University football team, when young men committed to play football for the Ohio State program, I was entrusted by their families to teach these young men and to keep them safe while they were under my direction. It was a responsibility that I took very seriously and when I look back at my coaching career, it is not the victories that are my achieving moments but it was the personal development that each of my players underwent as individuals while they were on the football team. When I read of the lives lost due to distracted driving, it makes me reflect upon the young men's lives that were a part of mine as a former head coach and teacher. I think Ohio needs to do all that we can to protect everyone that travels on Ohio's roadways.

I applaud Senators Jim Hughes and Bill Seitz for introducing this legislation and wholeheartedly agree with their legislative intent. Ohio needs to encourage all drivers to be cautious when driving and to think of their safety before anything else. No text message or phone call is worth losing your life or harming someone else. A bad decision in a split second can impact you or your family for the rest of your life or others.

I appreciate and fully support the legislative direction proposed in Substitute Senate Bill 146.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earle Bruce".

Earle Bruce