



Representative Darrell Kick
70th House District

Sponsor Testimony – HB 501

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 501 alongside my colleague, Representative Wiggam.

As many of you know, my district is heavily populated by the Amish community, and though some parts of the county have installed extra pavement for Amish horse-drawn buggies to travel, there are still plenty of areas where buggies are required to share space on the roads with cars and other vehicles. Now it can be pleasant in the daytime to see a horse-drawn carriage out on the open country roads, but at night, it's a different story. Imagine cruising down the road at night or in the rain and all of a sudden without much warning you see a horse and buggy just a few yards in front of you. That can be just the kind of surprise that leads to a life-threatening collision, and unfortunately, this has happened far too often in Ohio, leaving me and my colleague, Representative Wiggam, searching for a solution.

We believe the simple measures implemented by House Bill 501 would make a world of difference in ensuring the safety of Ohioans driving at night. If the lights on animal-drawn vehicles can be visible from all angles in the dark as well as in poor weather conditions, drivers are much more likely to notice them from afar and to take the proper precautions to slow down as they pass by. This bill does not require any excessive regulation or undue burden upon members of the Amish community. It's a quick, inexpensive, and easy fix to a big problem. For this reason, I urge you all to support this bill.

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