



## FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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### Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee

#### Testimony on Senate Bill 179

12/11/2019

Chairman McColley, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Committee,

I am Mike Weinman, director of government affairs for the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio. Today, I am testifying on behalf of the 25,000 members of the FOP who serve community's throughout Ohio on the local, state, and federal levels. The FOP strongly supports SB 179, which will restore the front license plate in Ohio. The FOP cannot stress enough the importance of the front license plate in combating crimes from organized retail theft to murder.

There hasn't been a significant crime in the state that a front license plate has not been instrumental in identifying suspects and leading to an arrest. Consider that 70 percent of all serious crimes involve a motor vehicle in the United States. These crimes include kidnapping, violent crime, major theft, drug smuggling, and more. Front plates allow officers to identify a vehicle's registration while traveling in the opposite direction and increases the ability for automated plate readers and surveillance cameras to identify suspect vehicles. By removing one plate, you remove 50 percent of law enforcement's ability to apprehend criminals.

The front plate is a vital public safety tool. It is the only reflective surface on the front of a car, which is essential in identifying vehicles that may be parked on the side of the road, involved in a crash, or traveling in the wrong direction on a freeway. It also doubles the potential for identifying a vehicle involved in an Amber, Blue, and Silver alert. The front plate has also become important for customers of services such as Lyft and Uber who use the front plate to determine if they are getting into the right vehicle.

The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio continues to strongly support the retention of the front plate. We believe the public safety importance of the front plate greatly outweighs any short-term savings the state would see from removing the requirement. The FOP asks for your support on this issue. We stand ready to provide you any additional information that you may need.

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