



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Chief Darin Powers, Streetsboro Police Department

Representing the OACP

Thank you, and good morning Chair McColley, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee. My name is Darin Powers. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Streetsboro, and I represent the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police has always been an advocate of the front license plate, and we again would like to share why we believe public safety should outweigh vanity or convenience.

The front license plate provides the following value to law enforcement during police contacts and investigations:

- The front license plate increases the possibility of identifying a suspect vehicle by crime victims and witnesses.
- Officers responding to crimes routinely scan front license plates while responding to crime scenes along likely escape routes. There is value in both dollars and safety when an immediate identification or apprehension occurs.
- Witnesses of traffic incidents such as impaired drivers or road rage typically provide law enforcement with a license plate number. Responding officers are able to scan front plates while responding to these complaints and remove dangerous motorists from the roadway after making an identification.
- Automatic license plate readers are much more effective and efficient when vehicles can be scanned coming and going.
- Surveillance security systems, which are prevalent and include school bus and tollbooth enforcement systems, are more likely to obtain valuable information when a vehicle is bearing a front license plate.
- Line officers will attest that a front license plate is an officer safety issue. Officers in the field routinely provide identifiers of vehicles and people that they are in contact with prior to making that contact, whenever possible. This information is valuable for a number of reasons. Among these reasons are knowing who you are dealing with, whether they have any warrants or cautions, and if the car is reported stolen. These are all vital officer safety factors that we must take into consideration when approaching vehicles and occupants. This information also allows us to conduct follow up investigations as well as make reasonable decisions should a pursuit occur.

It is OACP's position that any cost savings, convenience and manufacturer concern is outweighed by the public safety factors provided.

I would again like to thank Chair McColley, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee for the opportunity to have input on this topic. I would be happy to answer any questions.