



**Department of
Public Safety**

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**Ohio State Highway Patrol
Proponent Testimony House Bill 206
House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
April 13, 2021**

Chairman Baldrige, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 206.

With over 31 years of experience in law enforcement, I have had the opportunity on many occasions to see firsthand the amazing results when law enforcement partners collaborate for the common good. You may recall my testimony from several months ago where I addressed this very committee and stated “law enforcement is a community sport, it takes all of us working together collaboratively to accomplish the mission.” I firmly believe this because at the end of the day, your constituents and the people we serve do not particularly care what color the uniform is, more importantly, they expect a law enforcement officer will be there to apprehend the “bad guy” or assist them in a time of need.

The reason I chose to open my remarks by talking about collaboration between law enforcement agencies is because that is exactly what House Bill 206 facilitates. The legislation allows township police officers (in townships with a population of 5,000 – 50,000) to enforce the Ohio Revised Code on interstate highways within their jurisdiction. As a result, this provides for greater law enforcement visibility as well as additional opportunities to apprehend impaired drivers, human traffickers, and drug couriers who continue to deliver poison to our communities and neighborhoods.

During my career, I had the opportunity to command the Division’s Criminal Patrol Section. In that position I witnessed the phenomenal relationships our troopers had developed with township officers who worked alongside them on the interstates. For example, in Representative Ghanbari’s District, Findlay Criminal Patrol troopers worked regularly with Perrysburg Township and Lake Township officers during interdiction operations and other routine patrols. They often served as each other’s backup and routinely provide assistance to one another.

In closing, with finite resources and all the challenges facing the law enforcement community, it is imperative we work together to provide the best possible service to the motoring public. Simply stated, House Bill 206 grants our township partners the ability to assist us in ensuring our interstates are safe.

Chairman Baldrige, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I again thank you for today’s opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 206 and urge favorable consideration of the bill. I am happy to answer any questions.