



**State Representative
Richard D. Brown**

Testimony on House Bill 308:

Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, and Ranking Member Sheehy, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 308. This legislation would authorize the creation of the Loyal Order of the Moose Ohio license plate, raising funds and awareness for an important organization that has chapters in nearly all of our districts. This legislation was brought to me by David Adams, an active member of the Order who is also President of the District 09 Chapter, based in Galloway, Ohio.

The Loyal Order of the Moose was founded in 1888 and was established to be a fraternal and service organization. Over the years, the Order has been able to boast of the membership of US Presidents, including Presidents Harding, Franklin and Theodore Roosevelt, and Truman, United States Senators and Congressman, well-known actors such as Jimmy Stewart and Charlie Chaplin, and even Ohio State's own Woody Hayes. The Order has also gained international status as well, with active chapters chartered in Europe. The Loyal Order of the Moose now has over one million members in all 50 states and 4 Canadian Provinces, plus Great Britain. The Moose is about celebrating life together and serving those in need in local communities.

Service has been a key component to the organization's mission since its founding, with its over one million members donating \$75-\$100 million in direct contributions and volunteer hours annually. The Loyal Order of the Moose Ohio alone has donated over \$550,000 in their 2020 reporting period, with a mere \$8.76 average per member donation goal. Historically, the organization has supported a variety of

charities, including the March of Dimes and St. Jude Children's Hospital, as well as the Boy and Girl Scouts of America and Big Brother-Big Sisters.

Providing the Loyal Order of the Moose Ohio with another way to raise funds via a license plate would enhance their charitable mission by encouraging direct financial support through the purchase of these license plates. Even the simple display of such a plate on a vehicle help to raise awareness of all the outstanding charitable work that the Loyal Order of the Moose provides for our state.

Once again, Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, and Ranking Member Sheehy, thank you for taking the time to hear sponsor testimony on House Bill 308. I will gladly answer any questions you may have.