



Department of Public Safety

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Ohio State Highway Patrol
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Proponent Testimony House Bill 206
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
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Chairwoman Roegner, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and Members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 206.

With over 28 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. As the commander of the Patrol's Field Operations, I hear daily about positive results achieved when we all work towards a common goal. Our Superintendent often says, "law enforcement is a community sport, it takes all of us working together collaboratively to accomplish the mission." We 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. This 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 have had the opportunity to command the Patrol's operations in northeast Ohio and now statewide. In these positions I've witnessed the phenomenal relationships our troopers have developed with township officers who worked alongside them on the interstates to address the problems that impact the safety of our roadways and communities. For example, in Representative Ghanbari's District, I worked in the early 2000s with Perrysburg Township and Lake Township officers and witnessed them removing dangerous drivers from our interstates. I also developed strong ties while a post commander in Medina with Montville, Medina and Brunswick Hills townships. Lastly while assigned to Youngstown/Warren area we had many operational details that were worked together with several townships, Austintown, Liberty, and Boardman to name a few. They often served as each other's backup and routinely provided 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.

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and Members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform 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.