



## **House Bill 206 Proponent Testimony March 16, 2022**

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. My name is Ed Nagle, and I am the immediate past chairman of the Ohio Trucking Association and owner of Nagle Companies, a refrigerated trucking company based in Walbridge Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 206, which grants township law enforcement officers to patrol and enforce the laws on portions of interstate highways that run through their jurisdictions.

Our company has been located in Lake Township since 1984, and I have been employed in Lake Township since 1978. Lake Township is located near the intersection of I-280 and Exit 71 (formerly Exit# 5) of the Ohio Turnpike. Additionally, we have State Route 795 running east and west that also connects I-280 and I-75.

Our geographic location is referred to as the “Crossroads of America” as we have the I-75, I-280, and I-80/I-90. We have a tremendous amount of traffic, both commercial and private coming from all parts of the country as well from Canada and Mexico. With my work history in this region and knowing about the drug trafficking, in 2006, with Lake Township Police Department, we started their K-9 Unit, with Officer Kelly Clark being the handler. During the 10 years her dog was in service (was pulled because the jurisdictional issue became a problem as I-280 runs the length of Lake Twp.), that K-9 team turned in over \$750,000 in civil forfeitures due to drug related activity.

In addition to drugs, human sex trafficking is also a major issue in our area, and one that we take extremely seriously. Our company is a member of Truckers Against Trafficking (<https://truckersagainstrafficking.org/>), an organization formed in 2009, that educates transportation professionals (primarily truck drivers), “to assist law enforcement in the recognition and reporting of human sex trafficking, in order to aid in the recovery of victims and the arrest of their perpetrators.” By partnering with Truckers Against Trafficking, Ohio became the first state to mandate that all commercial driving schools teach students about human trafficking. Through this

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training, drivers are better equipped to identify potential victims and how to report suspicious activity. Truckers Against Trafficking has trained nearly 1,000,000 drivers. Through these efforts, thousands of tips have been received and over 1,000 victims have been helped.

I have first-hand knowledge of all these activities as I worked at one of the truck stops as a midnight manager prior to working for the family business. Since 1985, when we bought our first trucks, we would provide trucks to Lake Township Police Department to run prostitution and drug buy stings. All of that came to an end once the interstate jurisdictional issue became an issue during the Supreme Court Case, *State v. Brown*, 143 Ohio St.3d 444, 2015-Ohio-2438 in 2015 from an arrest in 2011.

As both an owner of a trucking company and member of Ohio Trucking Association, we had initial concerns with the bill regarding the potential for revenue grabs by law enforcement personnel from smaller townships. However, through working with the bill's sponsor we are confident the language protects us from undue and unnecessary enforcement while at the same time will allow larger townships with the necessary resources and trained personnel to continue protecting us from the scourge of drugs and saving those innocent girls that have been forced into the sex slavery.

Thank you for considering this this testimony and I ask that you support the language in House Bill 206.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edwin J. Nagle III  
President, CEO, Nagle Companies  
Chairman, Ohio Trucking Association.