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Senate Transportation Committee
Senate Bill 270—Sponsor Testimony
Wednesday, December 7, 2021

Chair Kunze, Vice-Chair Reineke and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 270.

Current law does not require Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to notify school districts about potential changes made to the state highway system that could affect them. This legislation will simply require ODOT to notify school districts if they plan to make a significant change to the state highway system that would affect one or multiple school buildings.

The need for this change in law came our attention after ODOT identified an intersection south of a school safety zone as a high accident area, and resolved to reroute traffic patterns through a school safety zone. We were both contacted by school officials, elected leaders, and local business owners who were opposed to ODOTS's plan and felt like their voices were not heard throughout the process.

Consequently, rerouting traffic in this manner would result in additional vehicles being diverted through the school safety zone to a traffic circle and back through the school safety zone to access businesses south of the school. This was a big concern for our communities and the Springfield Local School District because Springfield Local has a main entrance for an elementary School, Junior High School, High School, the administrative offices and their sports fields on the rerouted road.

Unfortunately, we may be coming to the table too late to solve this potential safety issue in our community. However, the goal of this legislation is to ensure that school districts across the state have more involvement in decisions that will affect traffic safety around school safety zones.

At this time, we would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.