



**Senator Kenny Yuko – 25th District
Senator Matt Dolan – 24th District
Senate Transportation Committee
May 18th, 2022
Senate Bill 285 – Sponsor Testimony**

Good morning Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation committee, and thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony in support of Senate Bill 285. Working alongside Senator Matt Dolan, Senate Bill 285 was drafted to create the Playhouse Square license plate and include it in the state treasurer license plate contribution fund. The fund consists of all contributions for specialty license plates paid by motor vehicle registrants which are collected by the registrar of motor vehicles.

The goal of this legislation is to provide contributions for Playhouse Square to further its mission of presenting and producing a wide variety of performing arts, advancing arts education and creating an excellent destination for entertainment, business and residential living. Playhouse Square is located in the theater district in downtown Cleveland. Outside of New York City, it is considered to be one of the largest and most impactful performing arts centers in the United States. Since its founding in 1921, this not-for-profit institution has been a leader for arts education and development. It offers thousands of events such as workshops, classes and more with minimal or no fees to people from all areas of Northeast Ohio. As a cultural gem to Northeast Ohio, Playhouse Square has become the epitome of growth and development for the arts in Northeast Ohio and it is time for our state to show full support towards them by including them in the state treasure license plate contribution fund.

We see this bill as a way to encourage and support art education and entertainment and to further invest in the lives of current and future Ohioans who will make great contributions to the world of arts. All vehicles will be eligible to carry the license plates upon request and submission of application to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Individuals that would like a Playhouse Square license plate will be charged \$15 dollars as a required contribution and an additional \$10 dollars for the administrative BMV fee for issuance. We know these contributions will go a long way in providing art education and support for the Northeast Ohio community.

Chairwoman Kunze and members of the Committee, we appreciate your attention and consideration of this legislation. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.