



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Testimony in Support of HB 293

Chief Heinz von Eckartsberg, Dublin Police Department

Representing the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Chair Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Chief Heinz von Eckartsberg, and as the current chair of the Legislative Committee for the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, I would like to submit testimony in support of House Bill 293. This is a bipartisan bill that proposes to modernize Ohio's young driver licensing system with the following small but important adjustments:

- Lengthen the Temporary Instruction Permit from 6 to 12 months
- Begin the nighttime supervised driving protection for newly licensed drivers at 9 p.m., rather than midnight.

A modern young driver licensing system is a proven effective strategy for reducing teen driver crashes and making travel safer for all road users. Ohio's current system hasn't kept up with the latest research on preventing teen crashes. As a result, young driver crash rates in Ohio remain unnecessarily high and have rapidly increased. Recent studies rank Ohio 49th, nearly last in the country, when it comes to laws that protect teen drivers.

Expanding the permit phase ensures every new teen driver has the chance to practice driving in all weather conditions with an adult. We also know that 75 percent of young driver nighttime crashes occur between 9 p.m. and midnight. A 9 p.m. nighttime driving restriction helps ensure newly licensed teen drivers develop the skills they need to cope with the dangers of driving at night.

Passing H.B. 293 will modernize Ohio's young driver licensing system, provide teens with greater protection, give their parents more peace of mind, and make the roads safer for everyone. A modern young driver licensing system keeps Ohio's teens, families and communities safe and strong. The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police appreciates your consideration and urges you to support House Bill 293.

Thank you for your consideration and for allowing me to provide testimony to the committee today.