



**Ohio Senate
Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
SB 127, Slow Down to Get Around
Testimony of James Proffitt, Safety Ambassador
SWANA Ohio Buckeye Chapter
September 19, 2017**

I am writing to you to explain why passing SB 127 to add waste collection workers to the state's existing "Move Over" law is so important to the safety of those who work in solid waste. As the Ohio Buckeye Chapter's Safety Ambassador for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and a worker in this industry for 35 years, I am committed to keeping my friends and co-workers safe while on the job.

I can still vividly remember March 12, 1996, at 7:00 a.m., the day a small garbage hauler team, made up of a father and son, was involved in a tragic accident in Kettering, Ohio. A vehicle rear-ended the garbage truck, pinning the son between the car and the rear of the truck. He was transported to a nearby hospital where both of his legs were amputated. This incident occurred on a four lane road and could have been prevented had the driver simply slowed down and moved over.

I am still friends with the man who was injured that day, as he works at the Sam's Club near my residence. His life and his family's lives were impacted forever. Move Over laws were not even thought about when this accident happened, but in discussions with him since then, he fully supports this campaign and gave me permission to discuss the incident. This is only one of many tragedies that have occurred in the waste industry.

Trash collection is the 5th most deadly job in the United States, ahead of even first responders such as police and fire fighters. This fact has led 16 states to protect collection workers with laws requiring motorists to slow down and move over when they approach them. By passing SB 127, Ohio will join their ranks in protecting these hardworking men and women.

Thank you for your consideration of support for this bill as we strive to reduce the fatality and injury rate for this industry. Should you have any questions about these comments, do not hesitate to contact me at 937-781-3070 or ProffittJ@mcoho.org.

Respectfully,

James Proffitt
Safety Ambassador
SWANA Ohio Buckeye Chapter



cc: Senator Frank LaRose