Freemason Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and the members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on HB286.

The idea that prompted this bill was brought to us by the Grand Master of Ohio, Jess Raines. The current statute states that a person must be a Mason to obtain the license plate. With the passage of HB286, any individual will now be able to receive a license plate. Additionally, at this time there is no contribution required, other than fees in place by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This bill will establish a $15 dollar contribution requirement that will be paid to the Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio for scholarship purposes. Last year alone, there were a total of 5,178 Freemason license plates obtained, if that number were to be maintained the scholarship fund could receive more than $77,000 dollars.

This bill is a simple change to an already existing license plate, at the request of the organization. I want to thank the committee for their time and can answer any questions you all might have.