



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Bruce Pijanowski, Delaware Police Department

Representing the OACP

Thank you, and good morning Chair McColley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police has always been an advocate of the front license plate, and we again would like to share our concerns with the provisions of the Transportation Budget Bill that propose to remove the legal requirement to display a front licence plate.

The front license plate provides the following value that unfortunately can not be worked into a formula when determining fiscal impact:

- The front license plate increases the possibility of identifying a suspect vehicle by crime victims and witnesses.
- Front license plates are easier to read – reflectivity at night and they are easier to read during the daytime due to the effect of sun glare.
- Officers responding to crimes routinely scan front license plates while responding to crime scenes along likely escape routes. There is value in both dollars and safety when an immediate identification or apprehension occurs.
- Automatic license plate readers are much more effective and efficient when vehicles can be scanned coming and going.
- Surveillance security systems, which are prevalent and include tollbooth enforcement systems, are more likely to obtain valuable information when a vehicle is bearing a front license plate.
- Line officers will attest that a front license plate is an officer safety issue. Officers in the field routinely provide identifiers of vehicles and people that they are in contact with prior to making that contact, whenever possible. This information is valuable for a number of reasons – knowing who you are dealing with, whether they have any warrants or cautions, if the car is reported stolen are all vital officer safety factors that we must take into consideration when approaching vehicles and occupants. This information also allows us to conduct follow up investigations as well as make reasonable decisions should a pursuit occur.

This is but a few reasons that the front license plate is a valuable asset that should be maintained. Front license plate research conducted in 2012 by Texas A&M University is a good resource for information in this area, and confirms some of the points made above. The research contains much more detail that should be reviewed if it has not already been made available. A good summary can be found at: <https://tti.tamu.edu/news/study-suggests-using-two-license-plates-saves-resources-for-states-law-enforcement-agencies/>

Again, I would like to thank Chair McColley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee for the opportunity to have input on this topic, and I hope that the information provided will be helpful in weighing the balance of cost savings, safety, and the actual real and intangible value of the front license plate.