



PREBLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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March 21, 2022

Chairman Brian Baldrige
Ranking Member Michael Sheehy
Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Baldrige, Ranking Member Sheehy and Members of the Committee,


My name is Michael Simpson, and I am the Sheriff of Preble County. I write to you today in support of House Bill 494 as introduced. This bill will authorize the establishment of a "school adjacent zone" within one half mile of a school, as an alternative to a traditional 20 mph school zone.

National Trail Local Schools, which sits in the northwest portion of my county, would benefit from this legislation, if passed. Their campus sits on a county highway, between US 40 and IS 70. US 40 is a highly traveled roadway under normal conditions. However, when an event forces the closure of IS 70 between US 127 and the Ohio / Indiana state line, the traffic volume on US 40 increases drastically, sometimes for hours. This traffic includes commercial truck traffic.

A high majority of buses with children and students who drive to school enter and exit the school property from US 40 daily. While there is a posted school zone on Oxford Gettysburg Road, no enforceable school zone is permitted on US 40. This presents a safety hazard, in my opinion, on US 40. National Trail Schools sits in a rural area where highway speeds are the normal. Add additional traffic from the closure of the adjacent interstate, and safety of our students is impacted that much more.

I believe this bill is reasonable and allows local jurisdictions to work through a process to lower speeds during designated times when students are present, leading to additional safety for our students and staff. I encourage your support of this bill.

Respectfully,


Michael L. Simpson
Sheriff – Preble County