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Reggie Stoltzfus
State Representative
50th Ohio House District

House Transportation Committee: HB 88

Chairman McClain, Vice Chairman Ferguson, Ranking Member Grim, and Members of the House Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a sponsor of House Bill 88.

The following is a description of how Patrol Officer VanDenberg contracted COVID-19 while on duty that subsequently resulted in his death:

On December 3rd, 2021, Patrol Officer VanDenberg was exposed to a COVID positive subject while making an arrest on a felony warrant. On December 4th, 2021, Officer VanDenberg was hospitalized with pancreatitis. During his time of hospitalization, he developed other medical issues including kidney failure. On Saturday Dec 11th, 2021, Officer VanDenberg began showing signs of symptoms consistent with the Coronavirus. On Monday December 13th, Ptl. VanDenberg tested positive for COVID-19. His medical condition continued to decline, and on Christmas 2021, Patrol Officer VanDenberg passed away. The death certificate states one cause of death was COVID-19 and that he had suffered from COVID for 19 days prior to his death.

Members of the U.S. Marshal's Task Force that assisted in the arrest warrant also tested positive for COVID-19 after the encounter with the subject. The police report filed in reference to the incident states the subject was COVID positive and on body cam footage the subject stated twice in the first couple of minutes, he was sick with the Coronavirus. Officer VanDenberg was on duty at the time of the exposure and during the transport and booking process at the jail. The only known COVID-19 exposure that Ptl. VanDenberg sustained was during the warrant arrest on December 3rd, 2021.

Chairman McClain, Vice Chairman Ferguson, Ranking Member Grim, and Members of the House Transportation Committee. Thank you for your time today. Please join me in supporting HB 88. I'm ready to answer any questions you may have.