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Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
House Bill 206 – Written Proponent Testimony
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Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony in support of House Bill 206.

HB 206 would grant township officers serving a township with a population between 5,000 and 50,000 the authority to enforce specified traffic offenses on interstate highways within the township's boundaries, provided that certain criteria are met. The bill also specifies how fines are to be distributed for various traffic offenses. The Legislative Service Commission estimates that as many as 40 townships may be able to utilize the authority provided in this legislation.

Ohio's counties support law enforcement's mission to keep Ohio's interstate highways safe for the traveling public. The challenges facing Ohio's law enforcement officials today are significant. Therefore, it makes sense to have law enforcement officials from across jurisdictions working together to keep Ohioans safe. Providing township officers the authority to patrol these interstate highways adds to the security of Ohio residents and those traveling throughout the state.

The bill also establishes parameters under which this authority is used. The bill provides eligible boards of township trustees the ability to adopt a resolution granting township officers the authority to patrol interstate highways. The bill further requires that townships must have an interstate highway located within the township and with a public access point in order to conduct interstate traffic enforcement activities.

CCAO thanks the committee for their consideration of this testimony. Should you have any questions about CCAO's position on this legislation, please feel free to contact the association at any time.

