



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 25, 2021

FOR Ohio statement on removal of distracted driving law language from HB 74

(Columbus, OH) — The following statement can be attributed in whole or in part to Curt Steiner, spokesman for Fix Our Roads Ohio (FOR Ohio):

“Our coalition is dismayed, but not deterred, to learn the House Finance Committee has removed language from the pending biennial transportation budget bill to upgrade Ohio’s currently weak and unenforceable law to prevent distracted driving.

“Driver misuse of mobile phones and devices on Ohio roadways is a serious and growing problem posing a real danger to drivers, passengers and others. The new law proposed by Governor DeWine as part of HB 74 is based on extensive study and on the success of similar statutes in other states that have proven to reduce crashes, prevent injuries and save lives.

“Inclusion of this issue in the transportation budget bill as introduced provided our coalition members and those who have been injured or lost loved ones to distracted driving with the opportunity to present testimony and talk to lawmakers about the distracted driving issue.

“We have learned we have strong bipartisan support among legislators. We will continue to make sure lawmakers hear from families of victims, highway safety experts, roadway users, highway construction workers and knowledgeable law enforcement officials. We hope most legislators will conclude Ohio drivers, passengers, bicyclists, pedestrians and roadway workers should have the same lawful safeguards found in most other states.”

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More than 35 organizations and individuals testified in support of the distracted driving language in HB 74, including:

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| AAA Ohio | National Safety Council Ohio Chapter |
| American Property Casualty Insurance Association | Nationwide |
| Bike Cleveland | Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency |
| Keith Conner, FOP of Ohio | Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation |
| County Engineers Association of Ohio | Ohio Association of Regional Councils |
| General Motors | Ohio Bicycle Federation |
| International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 18 | Ohio Business Roundtable |
| Medina County Sheriff Terry Grice | Ohio Contractors Association |
| Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission | Ohio Farm Bureau Federation |
| Ohio Insurance Agents Association | Ohio Trucking Association |
| Ohio Insurance Institute | State Auto Insurance Companies |
| Ohio Municipal League | StopDistractions.org |
| Ohio Railroad Association | The Risk Institute |
| Ohio Township Association | Westfield |

Fix Our Roads Ohio (FOR Ohio) is a coalition of stakeholders united in support of Ohio’s transportation future. This includes supporting efforts to secure critical funding for Ohio’s transportation infrastructure, as well as advocating for laws that encourage safe driving habits for all motorists sharing Ohio’s roads and highways. A list of FOR Ohio members can be found at

www.fixourroadsOhio.com/meet-the-coalition/
www.FixOurRoadsOhio.com