



Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor, State of Ohio
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

April 3, 2019

Dear Governor DeWine,

We, the undersigned members of the Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus, write to urge you to veto the provisions within Amended Substitute House Bill 62, the transportation budget bill, regarding traffic cameras, court jurisdiction and the withholding of Local Government Fund (LGF) allocations.


These provisions eliminate administrative hearings for traffic citations issued by a traffic camera and require municipalities filing a traffic citation to pay all court costs and fees. Additionally, the bill would mandate that revenues collected from traffic camera citations be reportable and reduce LGF distributions by the amount collected from traffic camera citations.


We are concerned that these provisions interfere with home rule rights, as a recent ruling by the Ohio Supreme Court clarified that it is within a municipality's right to operate traffic cameras within their jurisdiction. We are also worried about the safety of Ohio drivers and pedestrians. Municipalities in Ohio utilize safety cameras (red light and speed photo monitoring devices) because they have been proven to deter reckless driving, reduce crashes and save lives. Law enforcement and city leaders should have the ability to use photo enforcement technology as a tool to improve public safety without being punished with funding cuts and unnecessary reporting requirements.


Cutting funding to local governments who choose to utilize this safety tool in order to discourage their use puts resident and non-resident drivers and pedestrians at risk. We ask for this veto because we believe it is in the interest of the safety of Ohio's citizens.

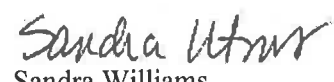
We appreciate your consideration for this issue.

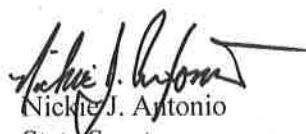
Sincerely,



Kenny Yulo
Senate Minority Leader
25th Senate District

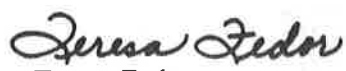

Cecil Thomas
Assistant Minority Leader
9th Senate District


Sean O'Brien
Minority Whip
32nd Senate District

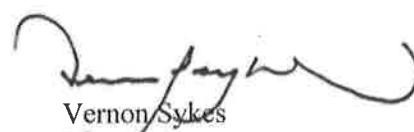

Sandra Williams
Assistant Minority Whip
21st Senate District


Nickie J. Antonio
State Senator
23rd Senate District


Hearcel Craig
State Senator
15th Senate District


Teresa Fedor
State Senator
11th Senate District


Tina Maharath
State Senator
3rd Senate District


Vernon Sykes
State Senator
21st Senate District