OSHP MISSION REVIEW TASK FORCE
Testimony of Larry A. Davis
April 21, 2010

Mr. Chairman and members of the task force, my name is Larry Davis and I am President of the Ohio Trucking Association. I have listened to numerous people provide a tremendous amount of testimony over the last six months on the powers and duties of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. We have heard that the highway patrol provided training, assistance, investigations, back-ups, equipment and support for any Department that asked for help. Many of the small Departments could not do their jobs without that assistance.

We have heard testimony that people believe that some of the duties being performed by the Ohio State Highway Patrol could be performed by other agencies for less money than is presently being spent. One of these duties is the Drivers Exam Stations that are operated in all 88 counties in this state. Many different types of tests are conducted at these exam stations by Drivers License Examiners and clerks who are not uniformed personnel. The Drivers License Examiners are supervised by Senior Examiners who report to District and Statewide Drivers Exam Supervisors. The DX Supervisor for the state reports to a Major at General Headquarters.

Beginning pay for a DX Examiner is $34,008. The top pay is $41,350. I find it difficult to believe that 88 different County Commissioners Offices would be in a position to maintain the uniform testing that we have across the state today.

We have a Motor Carrier Inspection Program in Ohio, second to none. The Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio enforce the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) that has been adopted into the Ohio Administrative Code. In 1988, Ohio law was changed to give PUCO the authority to set up a civil forfeiture system for violations pertaining to the highway transportation of hazardous materials. Prior to that, violations were cited to the local court where the driver was held responsible for the violations and they were not recorded on a single record. The Court did not know if it was a first offense, or the 3rd. In 1995 the law was changed to assess civil forfeitures for all motor carrier safety violations. This allowed PUCO to not only assess the driver a fine for a violation, but they are also able to assess a fine on the vehicle owner or the shipper, depending on the violations.

Roadside inspections conducted by federally certified state inspectors are uploaded to a computerized federal inspection program called Aspen and are electronically uploaded to the PUCO and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). FMCSA uses the Aspen inspections to create the safety ratings for the motor carrier and the driver. PUCO uses the results of these safety ratings to determine the fines for violations depending on the history of the driver or company. The roadside inspector checks the safety rating of the carrier before doing the inspections.

A Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector gets 5 weeks of training, plus they attend training each month on changes and updates. A level one inspection takes about one hour to complete. All inspections count toward the safety score. If a driver gets a clean inspection it needs to be loaded into the Aspen system, as well as one with violations. MCE inspectors start at $35,818 and their top pay is $45,282.
Finally, I have heard it said that other Departments would be capable of inspecting the school buses. Ohio has been very lucky because in the last 45 to 50 years, only one child has died inside a school bus.

Every school bus is inspected twice a year by teams made up of a Trooper and two motor vehicle inspectors. The MVI teams inspect over 43,000 school busses every year. The Highway Patrol is responsible for writing the school bus standards, with help from the Department of Education. The Motor Vehicle Inspection teams are also responsible for inspecting church buses, driving schools and are set up along the roadside to inspect all motor vehicles. Motor Vehicle Inspectors are paid $34,008 starting salary and top pay is $41,350.

At the last hearing, the Buckeye Sheriffs Association indicated that a Deputy starts at $22,000 a year and a Trooper starts at $44,762 a year. I don't think that gives a clear picture of what law enforcement is paid in Ohio.

I checked on the starting salary and top salary for some of the larger Departments in the state and this is what I found:

Department	Starting Salary	Top Salary
Franklin Co So	$39,873	$66,726
Columbus PD	$43,430	$66,518
Cincinnati PD	$52,993	$63,383
OSHP	$44,762	$56,930
Hamilton Co So	$43,005	$55,996
Cleveland PD	$45,904	$53,922
Cuyahoga Co So	$39,499	$52,145

Mr. Chairman, my point is that some Departments pay more than others, but that is determined by contract and approved by the State Legislature, County Commissioners or the City Council that has to come up with the money to pay for the level of enforcement they want.

Thank you for your attention.