Good Morning. My name is Larry Phillips and I am a 29-year veteran of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. In addition to being a Trooper, I am the President of the Ohio State Troopers Association, which is the union that represents Troopers, Sergeants, Dispatchers, and Electronic Technicians. It is in that capacity that I am here today to speak to this committee.

As this committee began its work I have been asked three different questions by my members concerning this task force and its recommendations. The first two are related. I have been asked since the committee is looking at ways to avoid duplication and section 5503.02 of the Ohio Revised Code states that State Highway Patrol Troopers shall investigate and report all motor vehicle accidents on all roads and highways outside of municipal corporations, why are Deputy Sheriff's racing, with lights and sirens on, to beat us to crash scenes? The second question is, why are Sheriff's showing up at crash scenes, where Troopers are already at, and telling them they will handle the crash since it is their county?

Unfortunately, I am not able to give my members a good answer to these questions. But, for a committee that is tasked with eliminating duplication, it would be good to find out.

The third question that I have been asked is what is the purpose of this committee and what are people hoping the committee will do. After the last committee meeting it is clear that what is hoped to be accomplished by the BSSA is reducing the OSP funding and giving it to the county sheriff's under the "I can do it cheaper plan."

During my time as OSTA President, I have been involved in negotiating two contracts with the State of Ohio. Although it may surprise you, particularly after the presentation discussing Trooper wages, that Troopers are not the highest paid police officers in Ohio. There are metropolitan departments that are paid more, there are suburban departments that are paid more, and yes, there are even deputy sheriffs that are paid more.

There was testimony by Sheriff McCauley during the last meeting concerning deputies taking over Trooper duties and potential savings. The areas discussed were school bus inspections, weighing trucks, and the SRT team. When asked if he could do it cheaper, I am sure you all remember his reply, "You betcha." But an apples to apples comparison shows that will not be the case.

In District 7, which includes Guernsey County, there are a total of 12 different counties. We currently have 2 Troopers conducting school bus inspections for the entire district. Not one for each county, which would be required if it was moved under the authority of the Sheriff's department, but 2 for all 12 counties.

It is the same for our portable scale trooper. We have 2 that are responsible for all 12 counties. When you add in the additional costs of scales and vehicles for each county sheriff department, it is clear that having two troopers for an entire district versus each sheriff's department having their own scale personnel and a school bus inspection deputy changes the answer to the question of can you do it cheaper from "you betcha to I betcha can't"

It is even more one-sided on the issue of a Special Response Team. There are currently only two people assigned fulltime to the OSP Special Response Team. All other volunteers are assigned to duties in the field when not performing SRT functions. This one team of less than 35 individual officers covers the entire state and it is already equipped, mostly from drug forfeiture money. The cost to provide each county with its own team and to provide the necessary equipment would be astronomical. That does not even take into consideration the jurisdiction issues you have all heard so much about.

Since the Patrol was created in 1933 many things have changed. Not only are the types of crimes different today than they were then, but law enforcement has changed as well. Like many things, what worked in 1933, may not work today. Before I go any further and potentially cause some on the committee to have a coronary, let me be clear, I am not advocating a creation of a State Police. However, I am asking for a common sense review of the Patrol's jurisdiction.

In many parts of the state, the Highway Patrol is not referred to as State Highway Patrol or even Highway Patrol. Instead, we are called State Patrol. Most of Ohio's citizens would be shocked by the limitations placed on today's Troopers.

Last week I attended a meeting at the Jackson County Patrol Post. Just prior to my arrival, a citizen arrived at a house across from the Post to collect a debt. Unbeknownst to him, the entire family was present due to a

death in the family. Before he could even exit his car, several individuals attacked him, while others blocked his vehicle in.

Fortunately for him, a Trooper was on post and responded to this attack on private property. The Trooper's arrival put an end to the attack before further damage was done. While him interceding may not have been the "right thing" according to the Ohio Revised Code, it was the right thing to do. These incidents are becoming more common. Not only due to happenstance, but also from being dispatched because a deputy is not available. This is a risk of liability for both the State and the Trooper

A trained, professional Trooper should not be required to run around like Gomer Pyle in Mayberry yelling citizen's arrest while serving Ohio's citizens. I am asking that a recommendation be put forth to incorporate language similar to the California Highway Patrol Powers and Duties. It states that while their primary duty of the CHP officer is the enforcement of any law relating to the use or operation of vehicles upon the highways, their authority extends to anyplace within the state.

During my tenure with the State Highway Patrol there have been prisons riots, uprisings in several cities, unrest on college campuses, and numerous demonstrations that have required a police presence. There is only one agency in Ohio that is equipped and has the personnel to handle these types of requests. It would be doing a tremendous disservice to the citizen's of Ohio to allow the training and ability of the State Highway Patrol to be wasted.