

**Testimony of Craig McGowan, Fraternal Order of Police, PA State Lodge
Before Pennsylvania Senate and House Transportation Committees
July 14, 2015 – Vehicle Registration Stickers**

Good morning. My name is Craig McGowan. I am a retired veteran of the Lower Merion Township Police Department in Montgomery County. I am also proud to serve on the Legislative Committee of the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge, which represents over 40,000 law enforcement professionals throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I would like to extend my thanks to Committee Chairs Rafferty and Taylor, Minority Chairs Wozniak and Keller, and the other Committee members for your work on matters of concern to Pennsylvania's Police Officers.

I appear before this Joint Committee today to support Senate Bill 926, which repeals the Commonwealth's unfortunate elimination of the vehicle registration sticker requirement in 2013. While well-intended, the elimination of the sticker requirement has posed funding and enforcement challenges for local law enforcement agencies. Until those concerns can be addressed, the sticker requirement should be restored.

From a police officer's perspective, Pennsylvania's vehicle registration sticker requirement was an effective tool for local law enforcement to maintain traffic safety and to prevent crime. The stickers' placement on the license plate provided a quick and simple way for law enforcement to gauge whether a vehicle was authorized to be in service. Perhaps more significant, traffic stops for expired or absent registration stickers, or for expired inspection stickers, oftentimes result in arrests for far more serious crimes.

While technology may exist to provide other mechanisms for local police departments to ensure vehicle registration, such technology comes at a cost, and at time when municipalities are already experiencing budget pressures related to their police departments. The PA FOP supports the use of new technologies to help Police Officers perform our important work more effectively and more efficiently, and we look forward to participating in discussions with other stakeholders on how best to incorporate such technologies at the local level. In the meantime, however, as a matter of safety and as a matter of common sense, we need to restore the vehicle registration sticker requirement so that Police Officers can perform our jobs keeping our communities safe.

Because of this, the Pennsylvania FOP supports Senate Bill 926. In closing, let me again thank the Committee Chairmen and members for your continued support of Pennsylvania's Police Officers. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committees on this and other issues in order to provide for safer roads and safer citizens throughout the Commonwealth. I would be happy to answer any questions on my testimony. Thank you.