

**Testimony of Joseph Regan, Fraternal Order of Police, PA State Lodge
Before Pennsylvania House Transportation Committee
August 13, 2019 – License Plate Stickers and Readers**

Good afternoon. My name is Joseph Regan. I am a retired veteran of the Lower Merion Township Police Department in Montgomery County. I am also proud to serve as Recording Secretary and Chairman of 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 Chair Hennessey, Democratic Chair Carroll and the other Committee members for your work on matters of concern to Pennsylvania's Police Officers.

The Pennsylvania FOP supports House Bill 317 (Automated License Plate Readers) and House Bill 1509 (2-in-1 Registration Stickers), which together solve the problem caused when the Commonwealth eliminated the vehicle registration sticker requirement back in 2013. While well-intended, eliminating the sticker requirement has posed funding and enforcement challenges for local law enforcement agencies. HB 317 and 1509 solve this problem by implementing a new and improved sticker system that combines the requirements that a vehicle pass inspection and be registered in this Commonwealth, and by improving the technology used by law enforcement to enforce inspection and registration requirements.

From a police perspective, Pennsylvania's longstanding 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 determine 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. By eliminating the sticker requirement in 2013, the Commonwealth deprived law enforcement of a significant tool used to legally identify and stop unregistered and uninsured vehicles. House Bill 1509 would restore this tool in a more cost-effective manner than the old registration stickers, and we ask you to support it.

Automated license plate readers (ALPRs) have been touted as a newer technology that makes license plates stickers obsolete. The PA FOP supports the use of new technologies to help police officers perform our important work more effectively and more efficiently, but not at the expense of longstanding technology (stickers) that we already know work. HB 317 will provide for the increased use of ALPR technology to improve local law enforcement efforts, by providing guidance on the technology's use and protections against abuse, along with funding necessary to acquire the technology. We support the increased use of ALPR technology, but we see it best used as a supplement to, not replacement of, license plate stickers.

Considered together, HB 317 and HB 1509 provide local law enforcement with a new-and-improved tool to accomplish our mission. By restoring a sticker requirement while paving