

December 13, 2021

Majority Chairman Hennessey, Minority Chairman Carroll, and members of the House Transportation Committee:

I am Nancy Angus, the Executive Director of the Mario Lemieux Foundation. The Lemieux Foundation was created by Mario Lemieux- arguably the greatest NHL player to play the game... and also a cancer survivor. After his battle with Hodgkin 's disease in 1993, he and his wife Nathalie decided that good could come from adversity and started their Foundation to help others in need. This includes furthering cancer research, improving patient care, and creating pediatric playrooms in medical facilities. To date, the Foundation has donated over \$30 million towards cancer research and care and helped over 1.5 million children and families. I respectfully submit the following testimony to the Committee on behalf of the Mario Lemieux Foundation.

I am writing to you today to support the proposed legislation to be introduced by Representative Lawrence, which would permit PennDOT to contract with a third party for license plates. My comments will be specific to the quality of the current license plates provided by the Commonwealth. We are aware that Representative Lawrence is concerned about the quality of the license plates and would consider including language in this legislation to address this growing problem.

The Mario Lemieux Foundation has been a participant in the Special Organization Plate Program since 2007. It had proved to be a very nice fundraiser. Unfortunately, over the years, many of our Mario Lemieux Foundation license plates have deteriorated. The paint is substantially peeling away from the metal plates. The poor quality of the plates has rendered many of them unusable and unsafe, thus needing replacement. However, the plates cannot simply be replaced with the same number, they need to be replaced with a new number and this is a source of concern and complaint with our donors.

To further explain the replacement process for a license plate, I have included the current process that PennDOT uses to replace poor quality license plates. According to PennDOT, to get a replacement specialty plate with a brand-new number after a license plate is deemed illegible, the charge is \$11. In order to get a replacement specialty plate with the same plate number after a license plate is deemed illegible, the cost jumps to \$108. To put this into perspective, the cost to replace a standard Pennsylvania license plate with the same license plate number after it is deemed illegible, is \$0. According to PennDOT, a license plate usually has a fifteen (15) year lifespan. Most of the Mario Lemieux Foundation license plates that have quality issues are not close to reaching the end of their life, with most lasting anywhere from two to seven years. Incidentally, we have had instance of people getting brand new plates that start to chip and peel less after less than one year of service. Additionally, there is no free or reduced-cost replacement for defective products provided by PennDOT to assist those who donated to charitable organizations by purchasing their license plates.

If the quality of the plates cannot change or if the paint wears out prior to 10 of the 15-year lifespan of the license plate, as determined by PennDOT, we would ask that a simple plate exchange be implemented. The consumer would order the same existing plate and pick it up at a nearby PennDOT location. This would eliminate the worry for duplicates on the road and the consumer would get a new and legible plate.

The Mario Lemieux Foundation would encourage the Committee to consider including replacement procedures of license plates. The current process and cost to obtain a replacement license plate is not consumer friendly or effective to raise money for charitable organizations, such as the Mario Lemieux Foundation. We have attached examples of license plates in which owners are seeing a rapid deterioration.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue!

# MARIO LEMIEUX FOUNDATION LICENSE PLATE QUALITY PHOTOS









