

On May 9 the Ohio House of Representatives will be voting on HB 259. This bill will increase the penalties for refusing a breathalyzer test. A DUI offender will often refuse the test, which takes away the evidence for a DUI conviction, because they know that the penalties are lower than if they were convicted. Ohio has a 40% refusal rate for breathalyzers. Repeat offenders know the loopholes in the system and feel they have nothing to lose by refusing.

HB 259 also increases the look back provision on DUI offenses from 6 to 20 years. This would result in more DUI felonies and felony sentencing, instead of misdemeanors and sentencing by municipal judges.

We ask you to support HB 259 by writing, faxing, calling or emailing your representative in the House and letting them know that you would like their vote to reflect your support.

You can call 1-800-282-0253 or the Board of Elections to find out your district and representative.

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections 216/443/3200  
Lake County Board of Elections 440/350-2700

The representatives for Lake County are:

Willowick, Wickliffe, Eastlake, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills, Kirtland, Waite Hill, Timberlake, Mentor-on-the Lake, Concord Township

Lorraine Fende (D) District 62  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus OH 43215  
614/466-7251  
614/719-3962 Fax  
[district62@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district62@ohr.state.oh.us)

Mentor, Painesville, Leroy, Madison, Perry, Fairport Harbor, Grand River

Timothy J. Cassell (D) District 63  
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