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Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee on HB 5287 on March 31, 2010

Chairman Meadows and Committee Members, thanks for letting me testify. The National Motorists Association is a grass roots organization that works for fair traffic laws that contribute to traffic safety. Our views on traffic laws are almost always the same as our State Police.

We strongly support HB 5287 on several grounds.

First, it is critical that the public view our police officers as those sworn to Protect And Serve. Even a suggestion that ticket quotas are involved in any way in their duties or their performance evaluations undermines that trust by the public. Ticket quotas often make the public see our traffic officers as primarily road tax collectors, not safety officers.

Second, most officers and their unions reject and oppose the idea of ticket quotas. They want to perform their duties solely on the basis of improving safety. The Detroit News did a series of articles in November 2008 about traffic tickets being used more for revenue than safety. Two headlines were **“Traffic fines help fill city coffers”** and **“Cops’ jobs tied to ticket totals”**. James Tignanelli, President of the Police Officers Association of Michigan, was quoted: *“Is there more pressure being applied to write tickets? Of course there is. I’m hearing that all the time now from officers. It’s gotten much worse over the last five-six years.”*

Third, and perhaps most important, if an officer is subject to any sort of a ticket quota for their duties or their evaluations, they may tend to divert their attention to fulfilling the numerical quota, instead of spending their valuable time on activities that truly contribute to traffic safety.

The National Motorists Association believes this bill will help prevent future abuses with quotas, and we ask that the bill be reported out unanimously with a positive recommendation.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



James C. Walker



National Motorists Association www.motorists.org