



**State Representative Brian D. Hill
H.B. 279 Sponsor Testimony
September 20th, 2017**

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on HB 279. This bill honors one of Ohio's greatest heroes, former Senator and Astronaut John Glenn, by requiring the Ohio History Connection to designate John Glenn's childhood home as an official state historic site.

Senator Glenn's childhood home is located in the heart of my district, in the village of New Concord, and is known as the John & Annie Glenn Museum. Visitors to the Glenn Museum will see a meticulously preserved home, filled with memorabilia and artifacts from throughout Senator Glenn's life and career. The museum gives living history presentations, where visitors interact with actor-historians who portray Glenn family members. These living history presentations have focused on the family's life through the Great Depression and World War II.

In 2017, the home was updated to include a living history presentation of the year 1962, when Senator Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth, so that visitors relive that special day in history with actors playing

Glenn's parents, Clara and Herschel. Beyond the living history programs, the museum also highlights the inspiring love story between John & Annie, and allows visitors see view memorabilia from Senator Glenn's military, political, and space careers.

The John & Annie Glenn Museum is a private, non-profit organization, cared for by a volunteer board of trustees that represents the village of New Concord, East Muskingum School District, and Muskingum College. While the Glenn Museum and the Ohio History Connection have been working together for some time, legislative action is necessary to formalize that relationship. Designating the John and Annie Glenn museum as an official state historic site will ensure its inclusion in the Ohio History Connection network of historical sites and museums throughout the state of Ohio. This bill allows us to enshrine the site as a place for future generations to connect with the history of two great Ohioans, and be inspired by their legacy of public service.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I would also like to thank Speaker Rosenberger for his support as joint sponsor of this bill. I will be happy to answer any questions at this time.



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