



CLEVELAND INDIANS

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Representative Upchurch, fellow sponsors: Representatives Brent, Cera, Crossman, Romanchuk, Sheehy, Holmes, G., West, Miller, A., Strahorn, Crawley, Skindell, Seitz, Weinstein, Sweeney, Sobecki, Smith, R., Miller, J., Smith, K. and members of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio; we thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony toward House Bill No. 117 to enact Section 5.52 of the Revised Code.

This past February Major League Baseball lost a legend with the passing of Frank Robinson.

Few players in Major League Baseball history can match the accomplishments of Frank Robinson. In 21 seasons, Frank earned a Rookie of the Year Award, hit for the Triple Crown, was a 14-time All-Star, a World Series MVP and the only player to be named MVP in both the American and National Leagues.

The hard-nosed Robinson, who grew up playing on asphalt baseball fields in Oakland, CA was one of baseball's all-time greats. Late in his playing career, Mr. Robinson arrived in Cleveland, OH midway through the 1974 season, adding a veteran presence to the Cleveland team.

Following the season, on October 3, 1974, Frank Robinson's history-making career took another giant step forward when Indians ownership announced him as the team's player-manager for the 1975 season. Mr. Robinson would be the first African-American manager in baseball history.

On May 27, 2017 the Cleveland Indians were proud to honor Mr. Robinson unveiling a statue in Heritage Park to commemorate the moment, Opening Day 1975, when another significant barrier was broken in Cleveland. On that date in 2017 we also retired Mr. Robinson's uniform number 20.

The Cleveland Indians organization is proud to honor the remarkable and historic career of Frank Robinson, and are fully supportive of H.B. No. 117, Section 5.52 designating Mr. Robinson's birthdate – August 31 – as Frank Robinson Day in the State of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Bob DiBiasio
Sr VP Public Affairs
Cleveland Indians