



January 29, 2020

To: Ohio House State and Local Government Committee  
Chairperson: The Honorable Scott Wiggam

Dear Esteemed Committee:

In 2019, our great state attracted national attention when a documentary entitled *42 to 1* aired on ESPN chronicling how James "Buster" Douglas, from Columbus, overcame 42 to 1 odds to become the undisputed World Heavyweight Boxing Champion. Critics are heralding the documentary for its inspiring narrative that transcends sports and offers an instructive message for everyone struggling to overcome adversity in their own lives. And the documentary helps to build Ohio's image as a state that cultivates success.

On Friday, February 7, city and state leaders will join sports personalities to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this historic victory, recorded as the greatest upset in boxing history. And this anniversary celebrates Ohioans who have incredible stories of winning against all odds in various facets of life, making a positive difference in their communities.

In addition to being a world champion, Buster Douglas is a wonderful person. Buster donated sums of money to homeless families, supported their children through school and helped pay for their college education; all while refusing to publicize his philanthropic deeds, not wanting to take the dignity of those he helped.

Today Buster is working with Brightway Center, an established non-profit organization, to provide workforce development, diversity and inclusion programs to help students find jobs and a viable career path. Buster works with the City of Columbus mentoring and coaching young people, providing guidance and serving as a positive role model.

I've known James "Buster" Douglas for over 45 years. I am honored to call him both a friend and a distinguished Buckeye. On behalf of Brightway Center and the entire 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration team, I respectfully request that this esteemed body of public servants do a service for this great state and vote yes on Bill S.C.R. 4 to make February 11, 2020 James "Buster" Douglas 42 to 1 Odds Day.

Respectfully,

*John Pace Jr*

John Pace  
Executive Producer