

Ohio House of Representatives



State Representative Bernadine Kennedy Kent

Sponsor Testimony

House Bill 28

Good afternoon Chairman Green, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and colleagues in the Transportation and Public Safety Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to give sponsor testimony to you today on House Bill 28. This piece of legislation would designate the southbound lane of interstate route number seventy-one commencing at mile marker one hundred two and continuing to mile marker one hundred, in Franklin County as the "James H. Hough Memorial Highway."

Colleagues, our office has been contacted by three generations of the Hough family to tell the story of their patriarch. After over a decade as a dedicated employee with the Ohio Department of Transportation, Mr. Hough went to work on September 16, 1980, never to return home. While directing traffic, as a project was being completed, on the ramp to 270E from 71S, Mr. Hough was struck and killed by a

dump truck that ran through the cones and hit him. Mr. Hough left behind his wife and son, Mr. James Hough II, who is with us today.

Mr. Hough has been recognized in the Ohio Department of Transportation Monument dedicated to the men and women of the Ohio Department of Transportation who gave their lives to provide a safe transportation system for Ohio travelers located in Conneaut, Ohio. However, the family lives here in Central Ohio and often passed through the area in which Mr. Hough was killed. After 39 years, they expressed still feeling heartbreak when taking the exit. We can be a catalyst to change that narrative for them. When the Hough family passes through the area of Interstate 71 South, they will be able to fill with pride rather than pain.

Chairman Green, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I appreciate your time and attention this morning. I am happy to take any questions that you may have.