

86th House District
Representing Union and parts of
Marion Counties

Columbus Office
Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-8147
Rep86@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov



Committees

Armed Services & Veterans
Affairs, Finance, Finance
Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Development
and Natural Resources,
Higher Education

Tracy Richardson
State Representative

June 11, 2019

Good morning Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written sponsor testimony on behalf of House Bill 262. I am Representative Tracy Richardson and I am unable to be present in committee due to my service to our nation as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves this week.

I first learned about Folds of Honor when approached by Scott Alexander, President of the Central Ohio Chapter and board member Bruce Lancia during one of my monthly in district constituent days. Scott described to me how he was inspired to help the families of the fallen when he was kept from exiting an airplane while the remains of a service member were respectfully removed from the aircraft. As a result of that experience, he told me he knew immediately that he had to do something for the children now orphaned by the sacrifice of their parent. That is how Folds of Honor began here in Ohio. I knew at our meeting that I too had to do something to support them in their desire to create a custom license plate for this honorable organization.

The noble mission of Folds of Honor of Central Ohio is to leave no military family behind in their pursuit of education by providing support to spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members. Qualified applicants begin as early as the age of 5 and may receive up to \$5,000 annually for educational expenses. In the 2018-2019 academic year, Folds of Honor awarded 109 scholarships to Ohioans totaling \$536,000. While they pursue numerous means of fundraising, the license plate will provide a reliable and much needed stream of revenue source for Folds of Honor. Dollars raised will be dollars used right here in Ohio. Also, by having their name and logo displayed on vehicles on our roads every day, the organization will have an opportunity to spread awareness and connect with potential new applicants and donors across the state.

A folded flag presented to grieving loved ones at a military funeral represents the heavy price paid for freedom. Folds of Honor selected the folded flag as their logo because it honors the sacrifice of America's heroes while giving hope to the bearers of their legacy. I am proud to sponsor this legislation to support that legacy and I respectfully request your help in demonstrating our commitment to the families of our fallen and disabled heroes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy M. Richardson".

Tracy Richardson
State Representative
86th District