

**Committees:**

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Ohio Latino Affairs  
Southern Ohio Agriculture and Community  
Development

***Jessica E. Miranda***

*State Representative*

Chairman Green, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety committee,

Thank you for having this important hearing on House Bill 616, the Kaia L. Grant Memorial Highway. It is with a heavy heart that I am testifying for the need of this legislation. On March 21<sup>st</sup> of this year, Officer Grant tragically lost her life assisting in the pursuit of a suspect. Officer Grant and Sgt. Davis responded to a call for help apprehending a suspect from the nearby municipality of Elmwood. Upon hearing the suspect was traveling northbound on I-75, the two police officers set up tire deflation devices known as “stop sticks”. As the suspect approached the stop sticks, noticing the officers using their police cars as cover, he veered and rammed directly into Officer Grant. The suspect’s vehicle then crashed into the stopped police vehicles, the stopped police vehicles then ricocheted into Sgt. Davis. Resulting in severe injuries to Sgt. Davis and the devastating death of Officer Grant.

It is nearly impossible to explain what the loss of this life has had on the communities she was involved with. The City of Springdale lost a fine law enforcement official and has experienced their first line-of duty death. The City of Forest Park lost an engaged citizen who cared for the development of her community.

While nothing can ever fill the hole she left behind, this dedication will serve as an honor to her memory. This legislation will make portions of I-275 that run through Forest Park and Springdale a permanent reminder of the incredible loss these two communities have experienced. My heart is with the Grant family and the men and women of the Springdale Police Department, some of whom are joining us today. By passing this legislation, we will show them that Officer Grant’s sacrifice will never be forgotten. Thank you.

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