



Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 262

State Representative Tracy Richardson, District 86

Senate Transportation, Workforce and Commerce Committee

June 24, 2020

Good morning Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and the members of the Senate Transportation, Workforce and Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB262, an omnibus bill that captures the desire to create license plates on behalf of numerous organizations throughout Ohio.

My specific license plate contained in the bill is in support of a remarkable organization called the Folds of Honor of Central Ohio. I first learned about Folds of Honor when I was 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 Folds of Honor began with an inspiration to help the families of the fallen. Specifically, Scott explained that during a unique travel experience, the passengers of an airplane were kept from exiting while the remains of a service member were respectfully removed from the aircraft. As a result of that experience, he told me it was clear that something had to be done for the children now orphaned by the sacrifice of their parent. This is how Folds of Honor began here in Ohio. Good and caring citizens with no specific military affiliation decided to find a way to help families of the fallen and disabled. At that meeting with Scott and Bruce, I knew that I too had to do something to support them. The creation of a custom license plate for this honorable organization will help to generate needed funding.

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 2019-2020 academic year, Folds of Honor awarded 109 scholarships to Ohioans totaling \$536,000. 11 applicants did not receive scholarships this past year due to lack of available funding. These included three higher education and eight children's fund scholarships. While Folds of Honor pursues numerous means of fundraising, the license plate will provide a reliable and important revenue stream for the organization. Also, by having their name and logo displayed on vehicles on our roads every day, Folds of Honor 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.

In closing, I'm honored and grateful that the Folds of Honor of Central Ohio bill, was selected to serve as the vehicle of this omnibus legislation representing nine worthy organizations. All of these new license plates will generate awareness and provide a source of revenue that will make a difference for Ohioans. I ask for your favorable and swift support of Folds of Honor and HB 262.

HB 262 also includes the following License Plates:

Ohio DeMolay License plate (HB 201/Jones)

Ronald McDonald House Charities License plate (HB 274/Crawley)

Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police License plate (HB 233/Reineke)

ALS Awareness License Plate (SB 163/Kunze and HB 227/R. Smith)

La Salle High School License Plate (HB 130/ Blessing)

Harrison Central Huskies License Plate (HB 254/Jones)

Liberty Center Local Schools (HB 256/Hoops)

Zero License Plate, *The End of Prostate Cancer* (HB 107/Brown/Lipps)