

Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 337
Senate Transportation, Commerce and Labor Committee
November 15, 2016

Chairman LaRose, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Minority Member Cafaro, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Labor Committee. My name is Robert Fisher and I am the Chief of Police for the City of Hilliard. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit to you proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 337.

Officer Sean Richard Johnson was a dedicated public servant. He began his service role immediately after high school when he joined the United States Air Force. After serving six years and being honorably discharged, he began his path in the career of his calling, becoming a police officer. Officer Johnson obtained his peace officer certificate and joined the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office. He served Fairfield County for two years before joining the Ohio Department of Public Safety as a liquor control agent. Following two years of service with the State, he joined the Hilliard Division of Police in 1999.

Officer Johnson served the Hilliard community with dedication. During his 16 years, he earned many awards and commendations. There were many qualities that made him a perfect fit for his chosen career, however, the most notable was his compassion. This quality was very evident in the manner he worked with community members in his responsibilities as a Crisis Intervention Officer. Officer Johnson developed bonds that impacted lives, leaving a legacy of helping people. He had a gift that he used to help those in need.

The impact that Officer Johnson had on his community was so apparent when we escorted him through Hilliard one last time. Thousands of people lined the streets to honor the man that gave of his life to help others. The cards, the notes, the flowers, the simple gestures of respect piled as a testament to the impact that he had on the lives of others.

Officer Johnson's life of service came to an untimely end when he died during an on-duty traffic crash on May 19, 2016. He left behind a family with two children and many others, including his police family, who loved him and will miss his smile and caring attitude.

S.B. 337 will allow us to publicly and permanently commemorate Officer Johnson's life of service by recognizing him on one of the major highways in central Ohio. I encourage you to support this measure and I appreciate the efforts of Senator Hughes in honoring the life of Officer Johnson.