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**Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee
S.B. 78 Proponent Testimony
Leah Curtis, Policy Counsel
May 24, 2017**

Chairman LaRose, Vice Chair Kunze, and Ranking Member Schiavoni and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 78 honoring Staff Sergeant Yvonne Fair. Ms. Fair was a vibrant young woman who is greatly missed by her loved ones, community, and Ohio Farm Bureau family. It is our honor to support this legislation and highlight her legacy.

Personally, as a classmate and fellow band member, I had the great privilege to call Yvonne a friend. I am particularly grateful to be here today to share with you just a snapshot of this great woman, and the joy and light she imparted upon this world.

Fair was the youth representative for the Jefferson County Farm Bureau, a graduate of our AgriPOWER leadership program, served as the Chairman of the OFBF State Youth Committee, and was designated posthumously as a county member of distinction. Not only was she an active member of OFBF, she showed a relentless commitment and love for her community and fellow citizens through her years of service as a firefighter and paramedic in Jefferson County.

As a servicewoman with the U.S. Air Force, Fair illustrated her courageous spirit and love of country, but also in her battle with cancer. When Fair was diagnosed with inoperable melanoma, she continued serving as a fulltime firefighter and paramedic. She sacrificed her own rest and comfort to serve our nation and the people of Brilliant, Ohio during a time of deep pain. Her selflessness is inspiring to us all and an example of fighting the good fight.

OFBF is very grateful to Senator Hoagland and this committee for shining a light on this incredible woman's story and helping her memory live on by designating a portion of State Route 7 in her honor. I personally look forward to the reminder to reflect on Yvonne's life of service each time I drive home to Jefferson County.

I will take any questions you may have at this time.