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Committees

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Safety

Joint Education Oversight
Committee

Chairman Green, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and fellow members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I thank you for allowing me to offer sponsor testimony on HB 278 naming a portion of SR 800 in Belmont County the Steven Lowell Cook Memorial Highway.

Steven L. Cook worked for the Shelly Company, a construction firm for 12 years. Tragically this all came to an end September of 2017 when Steve was struck by a driver on I-70 just west of Columbus. The man who struck him was later discovered to have a BAC of twice the legal limit and also had cocaine and marijuana in his system.

Steve was from Barnesville and had a large family. He was taken from his wife Linda, two kids, 3 grandkids, 3 step-children, and 7 step-grandkids. Steve was a remarkable father and grandfather, who was ultimately taken too soon.

At the time Steve's death was the first construction zone death the Columbus Division of Police in 7 years. Knowing how rare of a circumstance this is makes it all the much painful and harder to believe.

Naming a part of SR 800 back where Steve was from will serve as a reminder of a great man, and as a reminder to always drive safe for the sake of others.

Chairman Green, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety committee I ask for your favorable support of HB 278, and will now entertain any questions you may have. Thank you.