

HB 557 Create Paul Laurence Dunbar License Plate

Intro: Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing me to present sponsor testimony for HB 557: Create Paul Laurence Dunbar License Plate.

Paul Laurence Dunbar was born in Dayton, Ohio in 1872. Dunbar attended Dayton Central High School, where he was the only African American in his class. There he demonstrated his proficiency for writing by becoming the editor-in-chief for the school newspaper, becoming president of the school's literary society, and being named class poet.

He edited the *Dayton Tattler*, an African American newspaper printed by his former classmate Orville Wright. Dunbar's poems appeared in national publications such as the New York Times, and went on to receive international acclaim. His unique ability to expound on themes of Romantic poets while incorporating mixed rhyme schemes, dialect, and interesting poetic structures garnered Dunbar favorable acclaim from critics.

But Dunbar's poetry was not only renowned for its creative style, but also for its perspective. Dunbar detailed the experience of African Americans in a way that resonated with many Black people. His vivid imagery and use of metaphors painted a picture of the sorrows of Black oppression in the United States. His poetry told stories that might not have received attention otherwise. For these reasons Dunbar cemented his status as the greatest Black poet in America at the time.

Dunbar was a model of perseverance and excellence. His impact extended from Dayton to Ohio to the entire Nation. By enacting this bill we can help further Dunbar's legacy and

inspire generations to come. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 557

Create Paul Laurence Dunbar License Plate, I will be happy to answer questions.