

HB 671 Designate Jessie Gooding Highway

Intro: Chair Baldridge, 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 671: Designate Jessie Gooding Highway.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with Jessie Gooding and his legacy, I will give you a brief overview. Jessie Gooding is 95 years old, and has tirelessly served the Dayton community and Jefferson Township for decades. On the front lines of the Civil Rights movement, Jessie led the Dayton NAACP for 27 years. From fighting to end employment and housing discrimination, to organizing sit-ins in protest of the mistreatment of African Americans by local companies and businesses, Jessie Gooding was unrelenting in his fight for equal rights. In 2014 Jessie was recognized by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission as a Hall of Fame member for his lifetime of working towards change, and today I ask that we honor the legacy and lasting impact Jessie had through the designation of a portion of state route 35 as the Jessie Gooding Highway.

Often times we create designations and honorary legislation for people that have already passed to honor their legacy and the impact that these individuals have had on their communities, and Ohio as a whole. But it is not every day that we get the chance to honor a living legend whose impact has been so monumental. Members of the committee thank you for allowing me to present this testimony to you today, I would be happy to answer any questions.