

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Homeland Security Committee, I am Zahra Aprili Collins, Jesup Wakeman Scott High School Alumni Association President and proud member of the class of 2000. I thank you for the opportunity to provide this in person testimony in favor of House Bill 302 to create a Jesup W. Scott High School license plate.

Jesup W. Scott High School is Toledo's, if not all of Northwest Ohio's, oldest, most prestigious center for learning. The school is physically and historically impressive, a place for growth, progressive thinking and institution versed in overcoming challenges.

Scott is a massive, awe inspiring edifice which has maintained its grace throughout the decades. From its inception in 1900, the design was innovative in that it joined an academic college preparatory curriculum in the same facility as industrial education. Its doors opened in 1913. This year we are recognizing our 110th year anniversary and our 15th year anniversary of the levy that passed to save and renovate our historical building.

Within its own historical rites, Scott was the first integrated high school in the nation to elect a Black homecoming queen. We have won a National High School Football Championship and a State Basketball Championship. We have Ohio regional, district, sectional and city titles in multiple sports. Alumni have won Olympic medals in track and boxing as well as played professional sports representing the school in Basketball, Football and Baseball. Scott high School has been represented in multiple super bowls and 2 superbowl championship teams. Alumni have worked all over the world in roles of leadership and creativity. In the military they have risen to the rank of Colonel. They have innovated health care facilities and founded such entities as Hospice of Northwest Ohio. We are your civil and public servants, engineers, doctors, lawyers, authors, historians and educators.

The school has hosted presentations by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he advocated for unionization for better working conditions and salaries; General Colin Powell as he considered running for President; Rosa Parks for the dedication of a section of I-475 in her honor and President Barack Obama campaigning for reelection in 2012.

On a personal note, as a 2000 graduate of Scott, I am proud to be Legacy. My Father, Brothers, Aunts, Uncles and Cousins are attendees and graduates before and after me. Both of my parents taught at 2400 Collingwood Blvd. In College I came home and volunteered at the school with my teacher, mentor and predecessor in this distinguished office. I have been a teacher, and am currently the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach of both the Womens and Mens Program. I bleed Maroon and White and if you ask any alumnus they will say the same.

Scott is a fun place to have gone to school. You learn what you need in order to be financially independent as well as an astute, involved citizen. More importantly, however,

you form friendships and support groups that last a lifetime. There is a bond that transcends time and place. Most if not all Scott Alumni in this room right now could stand and sing our Alma mater Scott Loyalty written in 1919.

I, along with the other alumni in this room, support House Bill 302 because we understand the history and pride each one of us has in our school. As alumni we are always looking for different ways that we can support Scott. Not only will this legislation give members of our community an opportunity to showcase their pride and commitment, but it will also allow us to contribute to the Principal's Activities Fund reaching generations of Scott Bulldogs and assisting the school. Additionally it becomes a crucial pathway for providing direct support to our students' social and academic enrichment.

I want to thank Representatives Rogers and Swearingen for introducing this bill that will support the community that is so important to me. I would also like to again thank Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and the members of the House Homeland Security Committee for allowing me to provide testimony in support of House Bill 302 and I urge you to support it when it comes before the Committee for a vote.