

Good morning, Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Homeland Security committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of House Bill 533.

My name is Jersey Napler-McClendon, and I am glad to introduce myself as the Co-Vice Chair of the Brown & Gold Political Action Committee, a political-wing component of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Incorporated. I am proud to acknowledge my position within this brotherhood as an initiated member of Iota since the Fall of 2019 at the Gamma Nu Chapter here at the University of Toledo.

Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. was founded on September 19, 1963, at one pivotal time in American history. Directly in the middle of the civil rights movement, our twelve honorable founders at Morgan State College, now Morgan State University, established the fraternity to reflect their values of maturity, purpose, and dedication to scholarship, leadership, citizenship, fidelity, and brotherhood.

Iota Phi Theta has grown into a national and international organization, today comprising over 300 chapters in 40 states and abroad. "Building a Tradition, Not Resting Upon One" best depicts our motto in that the commitment is to create lasting contributions, especially toward uplifting African-American communities.

House Bill 533 would create the Iota Phi Theta specialty license plate. Funds generated from this initiative will go to the Delta Theta Omega chapter here in Ohio to fund programs that reflect the ideals of our fraternity, including:

- **Scholarship:** promoting educational opportunities and providing resources for academic success.
- **Leadership:** Giving young men the opportunity to become community leaders.
- **Citizenship:** Promoting civic involvement and community development.
- **Fidelity:** Committed to integrity and responsibility.
- **Brotherhood:** Empowering men through mentorship and service.

These funds will go directly to programs promoting youth development, mentorship, and education throughout Ohio, especially in underserved communities.

I can attest to the greatness of Iota Phi Theta and the importance of the values it instills. Being initiated into the Gamma Nu Chapter at the University of Toledo provided a platform for growth as a leader and a commitment to serving my community. House Bill 533 offers a unique opportunity to expand that impact across Ohio by ensuring that funds are available to sustain and grow programs that inspire future generations.

In conclusion, House Bill 533 is more than a specialty license plate; it is a meaningful step toward uplifting communities and fostering positive change. It aligns with Ohio's education, leadership, and community service values.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass House Bill 533 and join us in our mission to build a tradition of excellence and service. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.