

My name is Nancy Schirm Wright, and I am here to testify as a proponent for House Bill No. 209, Create Ohio Society Daughters of American Revolution Plate.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political women's service organization dedicated to service in our communities, working for our three objectives of Historic Preservation, Education and Patriotism. In Ohio, we have 97 chapters with almost 6,400 members. Nationwide and around the world, we have over 187,000 members supporting our veterans and active-duty military, providing educational opportunities and scholarships for students, Pre-K through 16, and working to preserve our history and historical places. Over the past decade, members have contributed more than 60 million hours of service to our communities, including almost 6,600,000 hours in 2023.

In 2023, almost 1,500 scholarships totaling \$1,420,000 were awarded at the National, state, and chapter levels.

In efforts to create a more inclusive and diverse organization, the Marian Anderson Legacy Fund and Scholarship was created. It is a \$5,000 scholarship awarded annually to a student pursuing undergraduate or graduate study in music. The DAR was a Gold Sponsor of the Great Stages Gala and Concert honoring Marian Anderson, where the Philadelphia Orchestra rededicated its home in honor of her.

In 2022, DAR was proud to give the Marian Anderson Museum a donation to support the restoration of both their historic building and Ms. Anderson's personal gowns, many of which had been damaged in the flood that affected her home.

In 2020, DAR launched the E Pluribus Unum (EPU) initiative with the goal of increasing awareness of often underrepresented Revolutionary War Patriots, including those who were African American, Native American, and women. The DAR Patriots of Color Database was derived from decades of research that culminated in a 2008 DAR publication, *Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War*. The information has since been expanded and updated to include Patriots with documented Revolutionary War service who are of African, African American, Native American, Iberian (Spanish or Portuguese), Azorean, Latin American and/or of multiracial ancestry. In 2023, DAR became one of the founding collaborating institutions supporting the 10 Million Names website by making available its DAR Patriots of Color Database for inclusion.

A new Specialty Research Committee was started to assist prospective members in their African American, French, French Canadian, Jewish, Native American, and Spanish research.

Over 9,100 members volunteered almost 198,000 hours by promoting and being involved in adult and children's literacy.

Our members actively support our Veterans by participating in over 720 Honor Flights. DAR members gave almost 300,000 volunteer hours in support of our Veterans, along with over \$3,000,000 in monetary donations and donated items. In one year, almost 53,500 packages were sent to our active-duty military, along with over \$2,150,000 in monetary donations and items.

This is only a minute part of the accomplishments that the Daughters of the American Revolution have made in its 134-year history. The DAR continues to work diligently to change its public image since the Marian Anderson incident through its work and membership initiatives. I want to strongly encourage you to approve House Bill No. 209, so that we may promote our service to our communities. Thank you.