

4th House District

Parts of NE Franklin County
Including Gahanna, New Albany,
Westerville, Columbus, Jefferson,
Plain, and other area Townships



Committees

Commerce & Labor
Higher Education
Pensions (Ranking Member)
Primary & Secondary Education
Technology & Innovation

Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio 4th House District

Testimony to the House State and Local Government Committee
House Bill 490
November 20, 2024

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for inviting Representative Skindell and me to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 490.

Formally designating the third Sunday in November as the Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims would honor those who have been killed or injured. As you have heard from Rep. Skindell, when road traffic incidents happen, the loss to individuals, families, and our community can be enormous. We owe it to them to advocate for policies to enhance road safety and which better support road traffic victims.

Here in the committee room is one of my constituents, Sharon Montgomery. She was in a crash with a distracted driver that took her husband's life and caused her serious injury and has channeled her experiences into advocacy. I hope that the committee will provide her and other supporters of this bill the opportunity to present proponent testimony, but given the lateness on the calendar, I would like to offer the following remarks on her behalf:

The global event World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is supported by the United Nations General Assembly and the World Health Organization. A Day of Remembrance is certainly worthy of being an official day in Ohio.

Unlike plane crashes, severe weather incidents, and mass shootings, most traffic crashes create only one or very few victims at a time so we tend to think of them as less catastrophic. But they still damage or end lives and those are the lives of family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers--real people whose lives matter.

We hold vigils, erect statues and plaques, have candlelight marches, rename streets and buildings for victims but those victims are rarely traffic victims. It is only fitting that we set aside a day to remember people whose lives have been damaged merely because they were using our public roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 490. We would be happy to answer your questions.