



**Representative Thomas F. Patton**  
H.B. 439 – House Transportation Committee  
May 7, 2024

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Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 439. This bill aims to designate a portion of Lorain Avenue in Cleveland as “Gallagher Way” in honor of Catherine and the late John Gallagher.

John Gallagher was the Founder and Chairman of Arrow International, Inc, whose products helped raise billions of dollars funds for charities in need across the globe. He was a World War II veteran, philanthropist, and devoted husband of over 70 years to his loving wife, Catherine. In 2002, John and Catherine donated a large plot of land along Lorain Avenue to Urban Community School, along with millions of dollars to fund school programming.

Today, Urban Community Schools serves 750 of the neediest students in Cleveland, with **75%** of students qualifying for the National School Lunch Program, and **80%** of families receiving significant financial support. The school boasts a student-to-teacher ratio of 15 to 1, allowing teachers to provide one-on-one attention for students who need it most. Urban Community School has revived the entire community, and it could not have done this without the constant support of John and Catherine Gallagher.

The renamed portion of Lorain Avenue would encompass the stretch of road from West 47<sup>th</sup> Street and West 50<sup>th</sup> Street, directly in front of the Urban Community School campus. This would be a small yet fitting tribute to John Gallagher, who gave so selflessly to his community.

I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 439, and I welcome questions from the committee at this time.