

**Dr. Vernon Sykes**  
State Senator  
28<sup>th</sup> Senate District



**Sponsor Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 141**  
**Ohio Senate Transportation Committee**  
**October 11, 2023**

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 141, which would designate a portion of Interstate 77 in Akron, the “American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Memorial Highway”.

The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or AGSM, is a nonprofit organization comprised of mothers whose children have died or gone missing in action in service of the United States Armed Forces. Incorporated in 1929, AGSM currently has chapters in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

AGSM provides support for mothers nationwide whose children have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. In addition, AGSM also provides emotional and financial support to both active-duty and former members of the armed forces and their families in a variety of ways. Not the least of these include purchasing school supplies and clothing for veterans, active-duty service members, and gold star children; making holiday meals for veterans homes and military bases; and providing assistance with home and vehicle repairs, and moving expenses for military families in need.

This highway designation would pay just a portion of the debt we owe to these mothers who have suffered to give so that we may enjoy the freedoms we have in this country today.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this bill. I welcome any questions that you may have.