



**Representative Terrence Upchurch  
20<sup>th</sup> House District**

Chairman Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation Committee – thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 253. This bill would designate the “Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Corridor”.

Charles Young is the epitome of hard work and dedication. He began his life being born to enslaved parents and still went on to become a pioneer and symbol of Black excellence. Charles was the third African American cadet to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1889. From there, he was appointed to Major in the Ohio National Guard and later became a professor of Military Science at Wilberforce University.

This historical corridor would link Wilberforce, Ohio (home of the Charles Young National Monument) to Camp Nelson in Kentucky (which played a significant role in Black Military history during the Civil War). The corridor will pass through Wilberforce, the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, as well as the Payne Theological Seminary. These places commemorate General Charles Young’s teaching in Wilberforce, his African American history, and his extensive military presence and background.

Thank you, members of the Transportation Committee for allowing me to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 253. I strongly urge your support.

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