

House Bill 213 - Testimony

Good Afternoon,

Chair Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 213, which seeks to designate a portion of Interstate 70 in Etna Township in Licking County as the “Tuscarawas Valley Memorial Highway.”

My name is Brynn Goedel, and I am a survivor of the tragic accident that occurred on November 14, 2023, involving the Tuscarawas Valley High School band on Interstate 70 in Etna Township, Licking County.

That day changed my life forever, as well as the lives of so many others in our community. What started as an exciting day filled with school pride and anticipation quickly turned into something no one could have imagined. We lost classmates, teachers, and friends who meant the world to us. People whose kindness, laughter, and love will always be remembered.

As a survivor, I carry their memory with me every single day. The events of that morning will always be a part of me, but so will the incredible strength, compassion, and unity that have come from our Tusky Valley family and the overwhelming support we’ve received from people across Ohio and beyond.

Designating this section of Interstate 70 as the Tuscarawas Valley Memorial Highway would mean so much. Not only to the survivors and families, but to the entire Tusky Valley community. It would be a lasting tribute to those we lost and a reminder of the resilience and love that continue to carry us forward.

Every person who passes through that stretch of highway would see more than a sign. They would see a message of remembrance, hope, and togetherness. It would stand as a symbol that their lives mattered, and that their legacy continues to inspire all of us to live with more kindness and care.

On behalf of all survivors, families, and the Tuscarawas Valley community, I respectfully ask you to support House Bill 213 and help make the Tuscarawas Valley Memorial Highway a reality.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my story and for honoring the lives of those we lost.

Respectfully submitted,

Brynn Goedel

Survivor of the November 14, 2023 Accident

Tuscarawas Valley High School Band