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State Representative  
69<sup>th</sup> House District



**Jodi Salvo**

State Representative  
51<sup>st</sup> House District

**TO:** House Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Representatives Kevin D. Miller and Jodi Salvo

**DATE:** October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 213: Tuscarawas Memorial Highway**

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

On November 14th, 2023, a bus and a vehicle carrying individuals from Tuscarawas Valley High School were struck by a semi-tractor trailer on I-70, taking the life of 6 individuals -- three students, two chaperones and a parent.

This tragedy devastated the Tuscarawas Valley community. As someone who lives in the district and whose children attended Tusky Valley, that day will forever be etched in my memory. I was present at the reunification center where parents or spouses were either reunited with their loved ones or received the devastating news of their loss. It was truly one of the most tragic and heart-wrenching experiences I have ever witnessed. It was impossible to comprehend such loss.

Yet in the midst of that heartbreak, the outpouring of compassion and support from across the state of Ohio and beyond was extraordinary. The strength and resilience of the Tusky Valley community -- the way our county came together in love, prayer, and service -- was one of the most beautiful demonstrations of unity I have ever seen. Our first responders, school staff, clergy, and neighbors embodied the very best of what it means to be a community.

In memory of these victims, I would like to have us pause for a brief moment of silence as I read their names out loud:

John Mosley, Jeffery Worrell, Katelyn Owens, Dave Kennat, Kristy Gaynor, and Shannon Wigfield.

This memorial highway designation ensures that we never forget the lives lost that day, the families forever changed, and the courage shown by so many. It will serve as a lasting tribute -- not only to those we lost but to the spirit of strength, faith, and love that carried Tusky Valley through an unimaginable tragedy.

I am especially grateful that Tusky Valley student Brynn Goedel, who survived the crash, is here today to share her story. Her presence is a reminder of both the pain, the resiliency, and the perseverance that define our community.

This tragedy devastated the Tuscarawas Valley community, but in the wake of the devastation, the community witnessed an outpouring of support and solidarity. Designating the highway in remembrance of these victims will ensure they are never forgotten.

This crash happened in my district, in fact, on a section of road I have personally patrolled and investigated numerous traffic crashes. I worked with many of the brave officers who responded to the accident during my tenure at the Granville Patrol post. They risked their own lives clearing the engulfed bus, tending to victims and securing the scene.

In addition to the first responders, a whole host of other individuals and agencies convened to assist and perform vital functions...including salvage companies, EMA personnel, ODOT, the Red Cross, victim's advocates, members of a local church and several others. Their lives were also impacted from the events of that day as well. The dedication of this roadway will forever memorialize the victims who lost their lives as well as those who responded in a time of need.

Chair Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim and members of the Transportation committee, thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony and we respectfully request your support for House Bill 213. We are happy to answer any questions at this time

