



**Representative Cindy Abrams**

State Representative for the 29<sup>th</sup> House District

Chairman 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 471.

Friday, May 2, 2025, was likely a normal day for most of us. Schools were getting ready for summer break, vacation plans were being made, and the weather was warming up. For Mrs. Henderson and her family, it would be the worst day of their lives.

Following his time with the United States Marine Corp, Larry Henderson served with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for 33 years before retiring in December of 2024. Deputy Henderson loved his community and continued to serve special details for the Sheriff's Office when needed. One of those details was traffic control for the University of Cincinnati's Spring Commencement Ceremony on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, where the University welcomes tens of thousands of people on to campus.

While thousands of individuals were celebrating their college graduation, Deputy Henderson was ensuring that the people attending the ceremony could cross the busy street. Deputy Henderson stood at the corner of Martin Luther King Dr and Burnet Woods Dr in Clifton near the traffic box, on the sidewalk, manually running the light as a car entered the turn lane, waited for other traffic to pass before accelerating onto the corner, striking and killing him. One man made the decision to hit and kill Deputy Henderson because of the uniform he was wearing.

While proudly wearing the uniform, Larry Henderson was a man of high integrity, had a great sense of humor, and was compassionate. He was a husband, a father of five, a grandfather, and most recently a foster father to a six-month-old and a two-year-old.

Following Deputy Henderson's murder, his colleagues with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and Mrs. Henderson came to me about creating a memorial highway in his memory. House Bill 471 will designate the portion of I-275 in Hamilton County over the Five Mile Rd Exit as Deputy Larry Henderson Memorial Highway. This spot was chosen by Deputy Henderson's wife and colleagues. It is a five-minute drive from District 5, where Deputy Henderson served before he retired. That stretch of I-275 is heavily travelled daily. The Deputy Larry Henderson Memorial Highway will be a constant reminder for Ohioans and everyone who travels on the highway that we are grateful for Deputy Henderson's service to Hamilton County, and we will never forget.

Thank you again for the opportunity to honor Deputy Henderson through House Bill 471. I would be happy to answer any questions.