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Michele Grim
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Standing Committees
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Before the House Transportation Committee
House Bill 334 - Designate Keith G. Earley
Memorial Interchange Sponsor testimony
provided by Representative Michele Grim
March 17th, 2026

Chair Willis, Vice-Chair Daniels, and my fellow members of the House Transportation Committee: thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 334, which designates the interchange between I-475 and Dorr Street as the Keith G. Earley Memorial Interchange. In the 135th General Assembly, House Bill 54, which would have designated the same interchange, passed the House unanimously. Lastly, I would like to thank my joint-sponsor, Representative Erika White.

Keith Earley served as Lucas County Engineer for 19 years, beginning in 2000 and ending with his retirement in 2019. During his tenure, Mr. Earley oversaw numerous changes to the infrastructure landscape in Lucas County, including a dozen roundabouts, the formation of the Lucas County Transportation Interchange District, and the start of a new freeway interchange. It is this interchange between Dorr Street and I-475 that we hope to name in his honor.

Mr. Earley's work in Lucas County was appreciated by those who were lucky enough to work with him. Mike Pniewski, Keith's successor, praised his leadership while in office for delivering results to the people of Lucas County, especially during times of great financial challenge to the Engineer's office. Mr. Earley was a dedicated and passionate public servant, and his work has benefitted thousands of Lucas County residents.

Born in 1945 in Galion, Ohio, Mr. Earley began his professional career in the private sector in Southern California before returning to Ohio to serve as the Mercer County Engineer in 1983. He served in this role until his appointment as Lucas County Engineer in 2000. He was awarded Engineer of the Year in 2002 by the County Engineers' Association of Ohio and again in 2014 by the Toledo Society of Professional Engineers. Mr. Earley passed in 2021 after a battle with cancer.

Chair Willis, Vice-Chair Daniels, and my fellow members of the House Transportation Committee: thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I urge passage of this legislation so that this recognition can move forward expeditiously.

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Now, I will turn it over to Mrs. Earley and Mr. Pniewski. We would be happy to take any questions at the end of our testimony.