



Senator Theresa Gavarone

2nd Ohio Senate District

Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 250

Senate Transportation Committee

October 6, 2021

Chair Kunze, Vice-Chair Reineke, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing Senator Hoagland and I to give sponsor testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 250. This legislation would designate a portion of U.S. 20 as the “Ohio Medal of Honor Highway,” thus adding Ohio to the list of states dedicating the entire highway as the National Medal of Honor Highway.

U.S. Highway 20 stretches over 3,000 miles through 12 states, and it is the longest highway in our country. Here in Ohio, it goes through the northern portion of the state. The highway cuts through 10 counties: Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Wood, Sandusky, Huron, Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, and Ashtabula. For your understanding, U.S. Highway 20 goes through 11 Ohio Senate Districts, which are a third of our total Senate Districts and 5 districts of members who are on this committee (Senators Antonio, O’Brien, Williams, Manning and Reineke). The highway also goes through my Senate district. Of the 12 states that have Highway 20 running along or through them, Ohio is the last to introduce legislation to designate our portion and complete the dedication of the entire highway as the National Medal of Honor Highway.

When Senator Hoagland asked if I would joint sponsor this legislation with him, I was an automatic yes. We all know from the countless people we have met how much our service men and women mean to our country and the immense heroism it takes to earn the Medal of Honor. In fact, Ohio has produced several of these heroes. According to the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, 328 Ohioans have earned the Medal of Honor since the Civil War¹. Naming this portion of U.S. 20 in honor of our nation’s heroes is a fitting tribute to our veterans who have earned the country’s highest award of valor. In recognition of them and their sacrifices for our country, this legislation is the least we can do.

Chair Kunze, thank you allowing us to testify on Senate Bill 250. My colleague and I are happy to answer any of your questions.

¹ <https://dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/hall-of-fame/honorees/medal-of-honor-recipient>