

# OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Office of the President

February 14, 2017

Moses Fleetwood Walker Project  
Mr. Craig Brown  
29918 Hartley Road  
Salem, OH 44460

Dear Mr. Brown,

Subject: HB 59

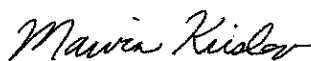
I write in support of your bill to honor African American baseball pioneer Moses Fleetwood Walker, the first African American to play major league baseball, by designating a "Moses Fleetwood Walker Day."

Mr. Walker was born and raised in Ohio. He enrolled in the preparatory and baccalaureate programs at Oberlin College from 1877 to 1881. At Oberlin, he became a star catcher on the college's first varsity baseball squad. His exceptional athletic ability eventually earned him a contract with the Toledo team in the American Association.

Unfortunately, Mr. Walker's baseball career and life were devastated by rising racism in the United States, as racial attitudes hardened and segregation became the pattern of American society. Harassed by teammates and opponents, he and other African Americans were driven out of the major leagues. There was no Negro League at the time, so their dream of playing as professionals in America's national pastime was destroyed.

Establishing a "Moses Fleetwood Walker Day" would honor his historic achievement, while honoring the City of Toledo and the State of Ohio. I have also sent letters of support to Representative Marlene Anielski, Representative David Leland, Representative Thomas West, Senator Frank Hoagland and Senator Larry Obhof.

Sincerely,



Marvin Krislov  
President

CC: Representative Marlene Anielski, Representative David Leland, Representative Thomas West, Senator Frank Hoagland, Senator Larry Obhof