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**Sponsor Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 62**  
**State and Local Government Committee**  
**Chair, Representative Anielski**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

Good morning, Chairwoman Anielski, Vice-Chair Hambley and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 62, which would designate July 8<sup>th</sup> as William Harrison Dillard Day across the State of Ohio.

William Harrison Dillard was born on July 8, 1923 in Cleveland. He attended East Technical High School, and entered Baldwin-Wallace College in 1941. Dillard was also a member of the famed Buffalo Soldiers, the African-American infantry division. He fought valiantly in the Italian campaign from 1943-1945 during World War II.

Originally inspired by his predecessor Jesse Owens, who was also from Cleveland, Dillard became one of the most consistent hurdlers the world has ever seen. He tied world records in hurdles during NCAA competitions in 1946 and 1947. In the 1948 Summer Olympics in London, Dillard tied another world record in the 100-meter sprint, winning him gold in the first use of photo finish at an Olympic Game. He also won gold in 1948 for the 4x100-meter relay. At the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, Dillard won gold for the 110-meter hurdles and the 4x100 meter relay. He is currently the only male competitor to ever win Olympic medals in both sprinting and hurdles.

Later in life, Dillard was in charge of communications for the Cleveland Indians for ten years. He was my neighbor for several years and still resides in Richmond Heights. I am honored to represent him. He has spent his life making our city, state, and nation proud. This legislation was passed with unanimous bipartisan support in the Senate during this and last General Assembly, and I hope that it will be passed by this chamber and signed into law.

Chairwoman Anielski and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to and consideration of this day designation for such a great Ohioan as William Harrison Dillard. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.