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Committees

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Energy and Natural Resources

Scott Wiggam  
State Representative

Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Ohio Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 229.

This legislation commemorates Charles Follis' memory on February 3, the day of his birth. His family moved to Wooster, Ohio around 1885. It was in Wayne County where Charles Follis established a name for himself and his family through his hard work and passion for the game of football. He began developing his talent in football as he played for Wooster High School.

As Representative Romanchuk stated, Charles Follis played professionally for the Shelby Flyers and was the 1<sup>st</sup> African American football player. Mr. Follis' leadership and triumph in the face of adversity inspired those around him. This included a teammate of his, named Branch Rickey, who many of you may know as the general manager for the Brooklyn Dodgers, who would later sign Jackie Robinson and break barriers in professional baseball.

Charles Follis was a trailblazer for countless others who would come after him to pursue their vision of the American Dream. I urge swift passage of House Bill 229 and that Charles Follis be forever remembered on the date of his birth. I would be more than happy to answer any questions at this time.