**Proponent Testimony - 3rd Grade Language Arts Enrichment Group**

**All Saints School**

**In support of HB 235**

Good Afternoon Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly and

Members of the House State and Local Government Committee. My name is Zac, and these are my fellow classmates Brooke, Donovan, Elyse, Audrey, Stella, Lucy, Charlotte, Mary, Tommy and Elizabeth. We are the 3rd grade language arts enrichment group from All Saints School in Cincinnati. Thank you for allowing us to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 235, the Sugar Cookie-Our Official State Treat also known as SCOOST 2019. We find there are many wonderful symbols for our state such as, but not limited to, our state bird: the cardinal, our state flower: the red carnation, the state beverage: tomato juice, and our state tree: the buckeye. Therefore, we believe an official state cookie is appropriate and propose that symbol to be the sugar cookie for historical, inclusive and unifying reasons.

In researching what would be the best choice for our state, we found a historical

background that connected this cookie and Ohio. Long ago, when settlers first arrived

in this area, no stores existed. As a result, families grew their own crops and produced flour, eggs and milk for themselves. Sugar was considered a special product and even valuables were traded along with their own goods. Consequently, having a sugar cookie, also known back then as a plunket, was considered a treat.

Additionally, the sugar cookie and its numerous varieties appeal to countless tastes

whether in simplest form, with sprinkles or chips, or cut out and decorated with icing and

multitudes of differing candies. The diversity reaches everyone, while a more specific

cookie does not reflect the whole state. For instance, Cincinnatians may identify with

Busken Bakery but not all Ohioans. People from Akron may adore the Quaker Oatmeal

but other fellow constituents may not have even heard of this cookie. Furthermore, a

peanut butter cookie would not appeal to someone with a peanut allergy. The sugar

cookie through its numerous types reflects all of us.

We value working with one another. Working together promotes unity and strengthens our society. Yet, we see, and we hear at times the negativity and disrespectfulness among one another whether it be the voters, political parties, media, and even the younger community. Certainly, people of our great state can come together peacefully and respectfully to achieve a goal. Our group is confident there is no better way to unify than with a sweet treat, the sugar cookie.

In conclusion, we find it a worthy cause to adopt the sugar cookie as an official symbol

for the State of Ohio. On May 2nd, 3rd, and 10th of 2019 the Ohio Center for Law-

Related Education conducted the Middle School Mock Trial State Showcase at the

Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center. Judges and lawyers came from all around the

state, for three days in addition to hours of preparation beforehand, giving of their time

and expertise, because they valued educating students about government, law, and

responsible citizenship. The instruction and learning of young minds were so important that the mock trial was sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio Foundation, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Office of the Ohio Attorney General, and the Supreme Court. As these great organizations and institutions have shown, we believe you think our voices matter; we believe you think our education is valued; we believe all of us can work together. Again, a simple but grand display of our democracy would be to see the passage of House Bill 235, our official state treat the sugar cookie.

We will now present further evidence.

\* The simple but elegant sugar cookie

\* The snickerdoodle…it is a sugar cookie.

\* The cut out…decorate and enhance anyway you choose, even with a buckeye.

We hope you enjoy what we have proposed here today as the official cookie for the

State of Ohio, the sugar cookie.