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

**All Saints School**

**In support of HB 235**

(2nd Hearing)

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 Stella, Charlotte, and Donovan. We are here on behalf of our 3rd grade language arts enrichment group from All Saints School in Cincinnati. Thank you for allowing us to provide additional proponent testimony on House Bill 235, the Sugar Cookie-Our Official State Treat also known as SCOOST 2019. Since our last hearing, we have been working to increase awareness about House Bill 235 and promote more goodwill from this legislation. Additionally, interest from outside the state of Ohio has reached out to us to offer their support. We come today to share these exciting updates which further support the adoption of an official state cookie, the sugar cookie, for historical, inclusive and unifying reasons.

After returning home from our hearing on Wednesday, May 15, we felt excited and hopeful. Our group believed we were warmly welcomed and truly heard. Consequently, we began to think about what other good could come from this sugar cookie legislation, and the idea of a bake sale came to mind. With help from our parents and parish, we are now planning for this charitable project where students and local bakeries are invited to make a dozen or two of their favorite kind of sugar cookie for a bake sale in between church services. Our hope is that this gathering will raise awareness about the sugar cookie and be successful enough for us to make a donation not only to our school but to our sister school on the west side of Cincinnati as well. This bake sale will include many varieties of the sugar cookie and bring people together.

While being excited about our bake sale, our group was also contacted by the Ann Clark Cookie Cutter Company all the way from Vermont. This company is the largest manufacturer of cookie cutters in the United States and perhaps the world. They produce 20,000 cookie cutters a day. After seeing our story in *The Courier*, the CEO and founder’s son, Ben Clark, wrote us applauding our efforts and to show support for this legislation. Furthermore, Mr. Clark shared that all states should have an official cookie and his company would now be looking into one for the state of Vermont.

Along with his letter, the Ann Clark Cookie Cutter Company sent each student in our group a selection of fifteen different cookie cutters and recipe booklets to encourage our baking and legislative work. We believe it would be amazing if our great state of Ohio could start a trend for all states to choose an official cookie of their choice by coming together.

Again, we find it a worthy cause to adopt the sugar cookie as an official symbol for the State of Ohio. Along with historical reasons which we shared last month, our group has now brought forth further evidence and support of how the sugar cookie with its many variations includes everyone and unifies us. We began with a story. We created a new story. We now politely and respectfully ask that you join with us to write the next chapter to this Ohio story by passing HB 235.

We invite you to come our table with these invitations and cookies.

We are happy to take any questions while you pass the plate.