

35th House District

Summit County

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Subcommittee

Tavia Galonski State Representative

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, and Ranking Member Kelly, thank you for letting me give testimony today on House Bill 625.

House Bill 625 would designate the hardy mum as the state co-flower along with the carnation. Since 1920 Aris Horticulture has been based out of the 35th District in Barberton, Ohio. Aris is one of the top 100 horticultural companies in the United States mostly because of their breeding and production of a variety of mums. Aris is owned by the Yoder family and has successfully bred and developed the Yoder mum brand internationally.

The Yoder brothers got their start on the Anna Dean Farm in Barberton by managing the greenhouse operations for the town founder. From 1909 to 1920 the farm was one of the largest sustainable agricultural operations in Ohio with the greenhouse operation being the largest in the world at the time. The Yoder brothers purchased the estate in 1920 and grew what is now Aris Horticulture.

Barberton's long standing history of essentially being the birthplace of the modern day mum is celebrated every year with the Barberton Mum Festival where Yoder mums are still featured. Mums adorn our porches every fall and bring a last bit of color before ushering in the winter. With House Bill 625 we are able to celebrate mums year-round for the beauty that they provide and their longstanding history right here in Ohio.

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, and Ranking Member Kelly, thank you again for letting me give testimony today on this piece of legislation. I am happy to answer any questions from the committee.