**Sponsor Testimony- House Bill 376**

**Transportation and Pubilc Safety Committee**

**November 12, 2019**

Chair Green, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 376 and to share the story of Corporal Benjamin C. Dillon. House Bill 376 designates the eastbound and westbound lanes of Interstate 76 between mile marker 44 and 45, as the “CPL Benjamin C. Dillon Memorial Highway.”

CPL Dillon, who was born and raised in my district, was killed in action on October 7, 2007 while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom as an Army Ranger at the age of 22. Ben’s many awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal.

The mile marker that was chosen can be seen from the Edinburg Park Baseball Fields that Ben and his family helped to build. Every year, the Ben Dillon Memorial Baseball Tournament raises money for the Benjamin Dillon Memorial Scholarship that has awarded over $38,000 to students at Southeast High School.

He served our community and our country valiantly and I thank you for allowing me to share his story today in providing sponsor testimony on House Bill 376. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.