



## **State Representative Tavia Galonski**

District 35

Sponsor Testimony, H.B. 603

House Transportation and Public Safety Committee | November 15, 2022

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Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 603. This legislation would designate a portion of I-76 in Akron as the “Lance Corporal Michael C. Spaulding, USMC, Memorial Highway.”

Earlier this year, Lance Corporal Spaulding’s widow, Jacqueline Hudgens, contacted my office to tell me his story. Lance Corporal Spaulding was born and raised in Akron, where his sons, his mother, and many of his extended family members still live to this day. He attended Garfield High School, which was located in the 35<sup>th</sup> House District.

Lance Corporal Spaulding was one of 241 American service members who tragically lost their lives in the bombing of a U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon on October 23, 1983. He was 21 years old.

HB 603 would dedicate a portion of I-76 near the East Avenue exit in Akron—the exit which leads to Lance Corporal Spaulding’s childhood home, where his 80 year old mother still lives today.

Lance Corporal Spaulding was well-known and loved by the many people who were fortunate enough to have known him in his short time on this Earth. While there is no way to truly do justice to the impact of Lance Corporal Spaulding’ sacrifice and service to this country, this highway designation ensures that his memory will not be forgotten.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 603 this morning. I urge passage of this legislation so that the recognition of Lance Corporal Spaulding may be advanced expeditiously. At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.