



Representative Scott Wiggam

1<sup>st</sup> House District

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 717.

This bill would designate a portion of State Route 226 in Wayne County as “Wayne County Gold Star Family Memorial Highway.”

A Gold Star Family title is reserved for families of military members who have died in the line of duty. Mr. Chairman, nobody wants to be a Gold Star Family. However, the reality is, there are thousands of Gold Star Families throughout Wayne County, Ohio, and the United States.

The best way to support a Gold Star Family is to remember and honor their fallen hero, while acknowledging the family’s loss, grief, and continued healing. Chairman Baldrige, while renaming a highway cannot restore what these families lost, it is my hope that this small piece will help families continue to heal.

I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you for your time in allowing me to speak on behalf of the Wayne County Gold Star Families and honor the lives of our fallen heroes.