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**Senate Transportation Committee**  
**Senate Bill 289 — Supporting Testimony**  
**February 26th, 2022**

Chairwoman Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present my written testimony concerning Senate Bill 289.

I am the father of Cpl Dustin Derga who gave his life in Iraq on Mother's Day, May 8, 2005. Dustin proudly served with Lima Company 3/25 Marines who are based in Columbus. He was the first of 23 from Lima who were killed in action during their 7 month deployment in Al Anbar province.

Senate Bill 289 would designate the portion of Interstate 70 in Fairfield County as the "Corporal Dustin A. Derga Memorial Highway".

I feel strongly this bill should be passed. Not only did Dustin serve his nation as a Marine, he also served Ohio and Fairfield County as a volunteer firefighter in Basil Twp. The state of Ohio and Fairfield County needs a permanent remembrance of Dustin's service and sacrifice.

Dustin often traveled this very section of I-70 in his red Jeep. My hope is all that travel this stretch of highway take time to remember not only Dustin, but all of Ohio's brave service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

I humbly request the accompanying document I wrote in 2007 be read by Sen. Schaffer during this hearing to give you a better idea of Dustin's whole story and why this bill should be passed

Thank you once again Chairwoman Kunze and members of the committee for the opportunity to share my written testimony.

Robert Derga

Proud Gold Star Father of Cpl Dustin Derga, USMC

