Chair McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, and Ranking Member Grim, and Members of the House Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 292. This bill will designate a portion of interstate 76 In Portage County as the "Patrolman William J Keller Memorial Highway."

Ohio State Highway Patrolman Officer William J. Keller was fatally struck by a pickup truck while outside his patrol car after initiating a traffic stop. The location of the traffic stop was on Interstate 76 in Rootstown in Portage county. He was a member of the Ravenna Post when this occurred and graduated from the 93rd Academy Class. Officer Keller was 27 years old when he died in the line of duty with just 10 months of service on October 14, 1972. The drunk driver that struck him was apprehended but died before standing trial.

The portion of Interstate 76 that runs through Rootstown Township in Portage County that could be dedicated is Mile Post 35.3 through Mile Post 41.1.

It was surprised to learn that this has yet to be done for him and is a small token of appreciation to recognize an officer who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting the motorist traveling through the State of Ohio.

I would like to thank the Keller family for joining us today, his widow Mildred Keller and their daughter Christie Woodford. It is their presence that reminds us of the importance of honoring our fallen officers.

I would like to thank the local Portage County Highway patrol for their help in providing our office with the necessary information on Patrolman Keller's life and service to the highway patrol.

It is with them in mind that we have a sub bill drafted for the committee to rightful honor Patrolman Keller with the appropriate title of Patrolman, which was the proper designation of servicemen in the Highway Patrol during the time of William Keller's service.

Thank you again to Chairman McClain and the members of the House Transportation Committee. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.