

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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January 28, 2025

Chairman Francis, Vice Chair Essex, Ranking Member Helgerson and members of the House Committee on Transportation.

Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB 2029, which would rename a portion of K-5 Highway in honor of late state Representative Marvin S Robinson II. Representative Robinson was my office mate throughout his 2023-2024 term in the Kansas House. He was a passionate advocate for his district and community.

Marvin was strong-willed, could be stubborn at times, and had an enormous heart. A passionate historian and advocate for his community in Kansas City, Kansas, where he remained humbled throughout his life and career. Following the footsteps of his mother, Verdis J. Robinson, Marvin was a respected voice in his community and committed to public service. After attending Emporia State University and Temple University, he enlisted in the United States Navy. He returned to Kansas in 1987 and began a journey that would be his focus for 37-years, protecting and improving the Quindaro Ruins/Underground Railway. He prevented it from becoming the site of a new toxic waste landfill which would have been devastating to his community.

This bill would rename a portion of K-5 Highway that runs near Quindaro Park and the Quindaro Ruins. There is no more fitting tribute to Marvin, an individual committed to his community and public service than honoring him along this specific stretch of highway. While Marvin would never ask this for himself, he earned it. When my husband and I attended his celebration of life on September 7, 2024, his family, friends, and constituents consistently mentioned his passion for preserving the Quindaro site. This tribute will be a lasting reminder of Marvin S Robinson II's dedication for his family and friends.

I want to again urge my strong support for passage of HB 2029.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to stand for questions.

Representative Barbara W. Ballard
House District 44 - Lawrence