

House Concurrent Resolution 26 Sponsor Testimony
Representatives Keith Faber
Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee

May 15, 2018

Good afternoon Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Becker, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to House Concurrent Resolution 26, to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.

Israel is the United States dearest ally in the Middle East. As a state, we too have a special relationship with Israel. Ohio holds more Israeli bonds than any other governmental entity in the world and is Israel's 28th largest trading partner. Ohio is also home to nearly 150,000 residents of the Jewish faith. It is time we show them the respect they deserve as a sovereign nation to decide their own capital.

Jerusalem is the residence of the Knesset, the Supreme Court, the Prime Minister, the National Bank, and other federal government buildings. Recognizing Jerusalem as the capital would provide more efficacy of diplomacy.

The United States of America maintains its embassy in the functioning capital of every county except the State of Israel, until May 14, 2018. The United States will finally be opening its embassy in Jerusalem.

On December 6, 2017, President Trump officially recognized Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel and now we have the opportunity, as a General Assembly and friends of Israel, to do the same. This meaningful recognition confirms our partnership, commitment, and support with Israel. We urge you all to support the bills.