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To: Members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee
From Chris Long, President Ohio Christian Alliance
Date: May 22, 2018

**Proponent testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 26
Ohio House of Representatives Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee**

Thank you, Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Becker, and Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee, for receiving our testimony today in support of HCR 26. My name is Chris Long, and I am President of the Ohio Christian Alliance, a public policy, voter education, and grass roots organization.

The Ohio Christian Alliance strongly supports HCR 26, a resolution to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.

From ancient times to the present day, Jerusalem is the indisputable capital of the Jewish State.

President Trump stated, "It was 70 years ago that the United States, under President Truman, recognized the State of Israel. Ever since then, Israel has made its capital in the city of Jerusalem — the capital the Jewish people established in ancient times. Today, Jerusalem is the seat of the modern Israeli government. It is the home of the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, as well as the Israeli Supreme Court. It is the location of the official residence of the Prime Minister and the President. It is the headquarters of many government ministries."

President Trump went on to say "I've judged this course of action to be in the best interests of the United States of America and the pursuit of peace between Israel and the Palestinians. This is a long-overdue step to advance the peace process and to work towards a lasting agreement. Israel is a sovereign nation with the right like every other sovereign nation to determine its own capital. Acknowledging this as a fact is a necessary condition for achieving peace."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated at the Embassy dedication, “Over a century ago, the Balfour Declaration recognized the right of the Jewish people to a national home in this land. And exactly 70 years ago today, President Truman became the first world leader to recognize the newborn Jewish state. Last December, President Trump became the first world leader to recognize Jerusalem as our capital. And today, the United States of America is opening its embassy right here in Jerusalem.

Thank you, President Trump, for having the courage to keep your promises. Thank you, President Trump, and thank you all, for making the alliance between America and Israel stronger than ever.”

Because of America’s leadership in moving our embassy to Jerusalem in recognition of the Jewish State’s natural capital, other nation states have followed including Guatemala and Paraguay, and other countries are strongly considering moving their embassies to Jerusalem as well – namely, Romania, Honduras, and the Czech Republic. Undoubtedly, other countries will follow the move to Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is also the spiritual center of the State of Israel where three major world religions gather and worship freely – Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Israel has maintained an atmosphere for freedom of religion. In my recent visit to Israel, I witnessed first-hand the peaceful co-existence of Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Jerusalem and throughout Israel.

Chairwoman Roegner and members of the Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee, this resolution is an opportunity for us as Ohioans to express our strong support for the State of Israel and to affirm our enduring bond with the Jewish people. We would like to commend Representatives Keller and Faber, and the 22 cosponsors for introducing HCR 26, The Resolution to Recognize Jerusalem as the Capital of the State of Israel. We strongly recommend its quick and timely passage to affirm the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our supporting testimony on HCR 26.