



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERALISM AND INTERSTATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26
MAY 21, 2018**

**PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN
STATE OF OHIO DIRECTOR AND GENERAL COUNSEL
PROCLAIMING JUSTICE TO THE NATIONS**

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Becker, and ranking member Leland. My name is Michael Goldstein, and I am the State of Ohio Director and the General Counsel of Proclaiming Justice to the Nations, a Christian organization dedicated to educating Christians on their Biblical duty to support and defend the State of Israel and the Jewish people. PJTN is on the web at www.pjtn.org.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this afternoon on behalf of PJTN and its members as a strong supporter of House Concurrent Resolution 26, a resolution to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.

Every reason set forth in HCR 26 supporting Ohio's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel is true and fitting. We have all read them, and I will not repeat them here. However, by this resolution the General Assembly honors the United States recognition of the City of Jerusalem as the official capital of the State of Israel.

Why do we care that Ohio does this? The legal reason is that each nation state, under international law and custom, chooses its own capital, and other nations recognize that choice and put their embassies there. Except in the case of Israel, which, unlike any other nation state, was subject to a double standard of non-recognition of its capital until the United States took action to remedy this injustice. Now Ohio is also remedying this injustice to a fellow democracy.

This act is not just an honorific. It is vitally important, not merely because Israel is a fellow democracy and the only free nation in the Middle East where people of all religions may worship in safety, but because we share Israel's values. What values are those, and where do they come from? The values that undergird our western civilization were created in Israel, and were given to the Jewish people to propagate to the peoples of the earth. And Israel has carried out its mission.

Think of it. Yesterday and the day before marked the holiday of Shavuot, the anniversary of the Jews receiving the Torah from God, through Moses. Especially, 3,100 years ago, from God through Moses Israel received the Ten Commandments, the foundation of all western civilization. Shortly thereafter, Jerusalem became the capital of the Jewish people, and so it has remained for over 3,000 years. The people of the State of Ohio will, by adoption of this resolution, honor Israel, honor Jerusalem, honor the Jewish People, and honor themselves for recognizing this ancient capital as the official capital of the State of Israel.

Thank you for your time and attention. I will be happy to take your questions.

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