

Columbus

Riffe Center, 11th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8550

rep52@ohiohouse.gov



Committees

Finance
Criminal Justice
Community and Family
Advancement
Insurance

George F. Lang

State Representative
52nd Ohio House District

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 589 signifying the “Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month.”

I thought I would start by sharing a little of my Latino Heritage. I was born in March of 1962 as George Fabian Fajardo the 3rd, the grandson of a Cuban immigrant, making me I believe one of only three Latinos currently in the Ohio Statehouse. I didn’t get to know my Paternal Grandma until I was about 25 years old. Here are some things I learned about her:

She was born Maria Caridad Ignacia Loyala Rodriguez Alba, in Santa Clara Cuba July 31, 1911. She was one of 11 children, the tradition in her family was that her mother gave all of her children a second name that was the same as a saint born on the their birthday, St. Ignacia was born on July 31, that’s where she got that portion of her name from. Her family immigrated to the United States in 1920.

Her mother, my great-grandmother, was born Francesca Sarduiz Rodriguez Alba in Cienfuegos Cuba in 1893, her father was a judge in Cuba. My great grandfather was Leonardo Caballero Alba, a military lieutenant, was born in Camajuami, Cuba. My great-great grandmother, Leoncia Sarduiz died in 1897 during the bubonic plague in Cuba - my bloodline is deep in the world of the “Castilian” Cubans.

My Grandmother told me the second proudest day of her life was the day she took the oath to become an American Citizen. I can still see the tears rolling down her face as she recited to me the preamble of our Constitution!

Latino’s have had a huge impact on our country and on our state in many ways and in many fields including the Ohio economy. Some of the highlights include:

- In 2012, Ohio was home to over 16,000 Hispanic-owned businesses, which represents a 64.7% increase since 2007. The overall growth rate for all firms in Ohio during this period was only 0.8%.
- The employment rate for Hispanic owned businesses in Ohio has increased at a rate of 104.3%.
- Hispanic-owned firms also had a 1.9% increase in people employed from 2002-2007, providing more jobs to Ohioans
- As the Latino population increases, so do opportunities for business growth. Ohio’s Latino population grew from 1.9 percent of the state population in 2000 to 3.3 percent in 2013. The growing population continues to open doors to a new and increasingly powerful market.

Columbus

Riffe Center, 11th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8550

rep52@ohiohouse.gov



Committees

Finance
Criminal Justice
Community and Family
Advancement
Insurance

George F. Lang

State Representative
52nd Ohio House District

Between 1990 and 2013, Hispanic buying power grew 443 percent in Ohio, reaching \$8.4 billion in 2013, and is projected to reach \$11.7 billion by the end of 2018.

Thank you for your consideration, now my Joint Sponsor, Representative Ramos, will expound upon the significance of the "Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George F. Lang".

George F. Lang
State Representative
House District 52