



**House Concurrent Resolution 11 Sponsor Testimony: Representative Candice Keller**

**House Federalism Committee: June 26, 2019**

Good morning. Chairman Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller, & members of the House Federalism Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of House Concurrent Resolution 26, signifying Ohio's recognition that Jerusalem is the true capital of Israel.

In 1995, the US Congress passed a law calling for the US Embassy to be moved to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Now, due to the bravery and tenacity of our President 23 years later, it actually happened. The truth is now apparent to our world---Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

At this particular time in history, it is so important for Ohio to allow our voice to be joined with our President in support of this change in both a public and political manner. Last year at the new Jerusalem embassy dedication, Prime Minister Netanyahu said, "By recognizing history [President Trump] has made history." Our President has been the first to follow through in 23 years and actually obey US law. Now, as one of Ohio's strongest trading partners, Ohio should follow suit in the defense of Israel.

Ohio must flex our courage right now, as in this era of turmoil and political correctness, it takes courage to acknowledge the truth---Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish people. As a sovereign nation, Israel has the right to determine its own capital, and it is only incumbent upon us to recognize it. This resolution will be a reminder to the world that our nation will forever be united with Israel.

The United States' bond with Israel is the envy of many nations throughout the world and is sustained through our shared interests and principles. Those who would rise up against Israel would do well to study their history, as no nation that has ever warred against Israel has succeeded.

**Committees:**

Higher Education-Chair  
Health  
Armed Services & Veterans' Affairs

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE CANDICE KELLER

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King David established Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel 3,000 years ago, and after him, King Solomon built God's temple there that lasted for centuries. In 1967, after my parents left Jerusalem just prior to the Six Day War, they wondered if they would ever return to a united Jerusalem.

Just last year, we have seen a historic transformation in Israel, and Ohio should be leading the way in support of a united Jerusalem. In our country's political atmosphere, "As Ohio goes, so goes the nation." With that in mind, I believe Ohio should be visionary in believing peace and prosperity is possible in Israel.

It reminds me of how my father used to describe Jerusalem. He used to say it was "the ruby on the velvet pillow from which God never removes his eyes." A city unique in its history, Jerusalem is a city that continues to reaffirm human rights, democracy, women's rights, and freedom of worship. Jews, Muslims, and Christians mutually share this city and worship freely. This city has spurred advancements in technology, medicine, and agriculture, all of which are areas of interest to Ohio's economy and future.

Now, the choice is before us on how Ohio takes its stand before the rest of the nation. I, for one, and my joint sponsor, Rep. Kick, for two, stand in support of House Concurrent Resolution because at Israel's young age of 71, we believe Israel's brightest days lie ahead of her. Thank you.

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