

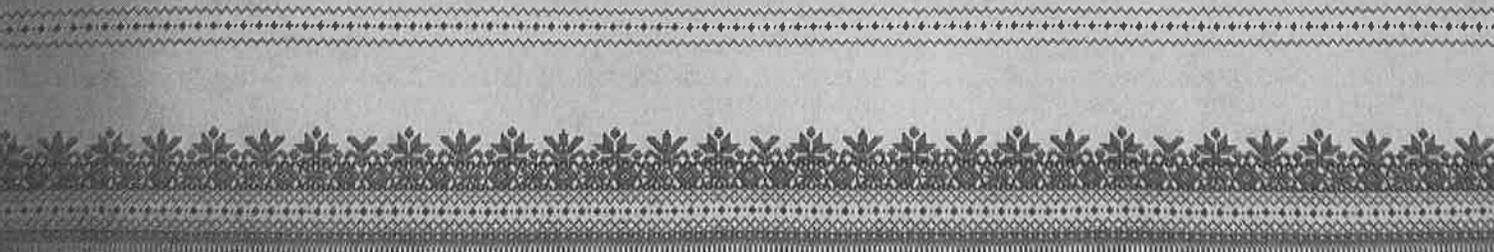
**EASTERN
EUROPEAN
CONGRESS
of OHIO**

Senator Schuring, Chair of the General Government and Agency Review Committee, and all Committee members:

It is with great pleasure and honor that I have the opportunity to represent my father, mother (who are Magyar "Hungarian" Immigrants), my 4 brothers, my 5 sisters, the Magyar Club of Dayton, of which I am President, and Eastern European Congress of Ohio, on whose Board I sit.

My parents spoke Hungarian to us as children, but made us speak English because they were proud to be Americans. We lived with the traditions of the Magyars and shared them with thousands of people, as we lived in a two bedroom apartment above our Hungarian restaurant. Each of us learned the value of unity, community and survival.

For over 40 years, it has been my pleasure to have started in 1975 in a series of Dayton-based enterprises: originally in a father/son business partnership at the "Schnitzelbank BierGarten," to Dayton's first sports pub, "Sports Page Eatery and Tavern," and finally to Dayton's first International Import Bier/Craft beer pub, called "Boston's Bistro and Pub," from which I have now retired.



This week the Magyar Club was approached by a widowed mother and her 15-year-old daughter seeking information on how to familiarize themselves with Hungary. The daughter has been awarded a one-year high school opportunity to study abroad in Hungary. Her interest was sparked by her deceased Hungarian father, and there were no resources at Stivers School of Arts in Dayton to study the culture. She needs to raise \$10,000 to take advantage of this opportunity to connect with the people and the culture of her father's heritage. It would have been great, if she had had an Eastern European Commission to which she could turn.

Opportunities such as this would change the fiber of the state of Ohio's school study abroad programs. The support of the educational system, social cultural groups, and entrepreneurial assistance would encourage the great minds of Hungarians and Eastern Europeans residing in Ohio to invest in their home state and to research the histories of their parents' and grandparents' migration to America and Ohio.

You have heard in earlier testimonies about many of the inventions, scholars, survival stories and the impact they have had on this great state. Less than two weeks ago, a Hungarian, Magyar, by the name of Steve Bognar and his partner Julia Reichert, who reside in Yellow Springs near Dayton, were honored for their Documentary "American Factory." Backed by former President Obama and his wife, the film captured the Academy Award for Best Documentary. In their acceptance speech, they thanked the great people of Dayton, Ohio, who made the film possible. Not only did they film the new factory that inhabits the old Moraine GM plant, but they were also nominated in 2009 for a Documentary called "The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant," that depicted the closure of that same plant. These two and others like them have the tenacity to improve their homes, families and communities, by showcasing the areas in which they live. As a state, Ohio needs to foster these kinds of achievements of the 1.3 million

Eastern Europeans by investing in its youth in all trades and small businesses that are the core of America.

To keep Ohio great, we have to fertilize the state with organic support from our government to continue our state's and our citizens' growth and the awareness of our states' beginnings with the Hungarian and Eastern European roots that has made Ohio the "Heart of the United states of America." This is why we need an Eastern European Commission that will foster the culture, the work ethic, and the ingenuity of those who are of Eastern European descent.

Thank you for your attention and I ask that you consider Senate Bill 261.

David Boston

Magyar Club President

Board Member of the Eastern European Congress of Ohio