

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26 SPONSOR TESTIMONY  
REPRESENTATIVES CANDICE KELLER  
FEDERALISM AND INTERSTATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MAY 15, 2018

Good Afternoon, Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Becker, Ranking Member Leland and members of the Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of House Concurrent Resolution 26, recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In 1995, the US Congress passed a law calling for the US Embassy to be moved to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. Now, the time has come 23 years later and the truth is out--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 a most public and political manner.

Yesterday at the dedication of the new US Embassy in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Netanyahu told us: "By recognizing history, [President Trump] has made history." Our President has made this commitment and now, it is our duty to follow suit. We must always defend Israel.

It takes courage to acknowledge to the world that Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish people. It reminds the world that our nation will forever be united with Israel. Israel is a sovereign nation with a right to determine its own capital.

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. My father described Jerusalem as "the ruby on the velvet pillow from which God never removes His eyes."

A city unique in history, Jerusalem continues to reaffirm human rights, democracy, the rights of women, and freedom to worship. Jews, Muslims and Christians all mutually share the city and worship freely. The city has

spurred advancements in technology, medicine and agriculture, all of which are areas of interest to Ohio's economy and future.

King David established Jerusalem as the capital city 3,000 years ago. His son, King Solomon established and built the 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.

Now, we see a historic change take place only yesterday and Ohio should lead the way in support of this historic transformation. As Ohio goes, so goes the nation and it should always be our noblest pursuit to believe that peace is possible and things can be different from this point forward for Israel's capital.

I stand today in support of this Concurrent Resolution because at age 70, I believe Israel's brightest days lie ahead of her.

I'm happy to answer any questions.