



Representatives Bride Rose Sweeney & Beth Liston
House Resolution 14 (Condemn Insurrection on January 6, 2021)
House State & Local Government Committee
December 7, 2022

Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 14. This resolution is an opportunity to offer a clear and bipartisan rebuke of the January 6th insurrection, a violent assault on American democracy and the rule of law.

I'd like to read an excerpt of *Examining the U.S. Capitol Attack*, a bipartisan report from the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, where U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio) serves as the Ranking Member: "On January 6, 2021, the world witnessed a violent and unprecedented attack on the U.S. Capitol, the Vice President, Members of Congress, and the democratic process. Rioters, attempting to disrupt the Joint Session of Congress, broke into the Capitol building, vandalized and stole property, and ransacked offices. They attacked members of law enforcement and threatened the safety and lives of our nation's elected leaders. Tragically, seven individuals, including three law enforcement officers, ultimately lost their lives."

The insurrection at the U.S. Capitol demands bipartisan condemnation in the State of Ohio. If there are two basic principles we should all be able to agree upon as lawmakers, they are 1) the importance of the peaceful transition of power; 2) the need to condemn political violence. How can we not agree with this resolution? How can we not condemn breaking into the Capitol Building, attacking law enforcement, and terrorizing staff because of being upset about the results of an election? I hope we can come together and draw a line in the sand, speaking out in one voice for the American Republic and against the rise of political violence and extremism.

House Resolution 14 sends a clear message: That the extremism and division in this nation have reached a boiling point and that political violence has no place in the government of the United States of America or at any level of government. While investigations are still ongoing, it is clear that Ohioans played many roles in the events of January 6th, as rioters, as lawmakers present that day, and as protectors of democracy itself, such as members of our Ohio National Guard, who dropped everything to deploy to Washington in less than 24 hours. We owe this to them.

January 6th was a violent attempt, unprecedented in American history, to undermine our democratic process and overturn lawful electoral results. It happened because a defeated President of the United States misled his supporters and emboldened extremists into believing the election was stolen. As public officials, our words matter, and our silence matters. We should always be able to come together to condemn political violence. We'd be happy to take questions.