



**Proponent Testimony HB 360
Designate Ukraine Independence Day
House Government Oversight Committee
Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, on behalf of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio (UUOhio), we would like to express our support for House Bill 360.

UUOhio was founded in 1928 as an umbrella organization representing the interest of religious, civic, financial, fraternal, economic, and cultural organizations of Ohio's Ukrainian-American diaspora. Today our membership includes 40 such organizations which collectively represent nearly 90,000 Ohioans of Ukrainian-American ancestry.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Honorable Sean Brennan, the Honorable Bill Seitz, and nearly 50 co-sponsors, and express our strong support for HB 360, which designates the twenty-fourth day of August as "Ukraine Independence Day" in the state of Ohio. This legislation not only commemorates a significant historical event but also serves as a symbol of unwavering solidarity with Ukraine in its ongoing struggle for independence and sovereignty against Russian aggression.

The declaration of independence by the Ukrainian parliament on August 24, 1991, marked a pivotal moment in Ukrainian history. It is a testament to the resilience and courage of the Ukrainian people, who have endured many years of domination by the Soviet Union and the Russian Empire. By recognizing this important date, Ohio stands shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine, affirming our support for its right to self-determination and independence.

Today, as Ukraine continues to confront Russian aggression and defend its territorial integrity, it is imperative that we stand firm in our support for its sovereignty. The struggle of the Ukrainian people is not just a distant conflict, it is a fight for the values that we hold dear: freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. By designating August 24th as "Ukraine Independence Day," we send a powerful message of solidarity to Ukraine and its people, reaffirming our unwavering support for their efforts to build a peaceful and prosperous future.

Furthermore, this legislation serves as a tangible expression of our commitment to standing against Russian aggression and upholding international law. It sends a clear message that Ohio

stands with Ukraine in its quest for freedom and justice, and that we will not tolerate any attempts to undermine its sovereignty or territorial integrity.

In conclusion, we urge you to support this legislation to demonstrate our solidarity with Ukraine and our commitment to the principles of freedom, democracy, and self-determination. Together, we can send a powerful message of support to the thousands of Ukrainian-Americans in Ohio and across the country.

Thank you for your consideration and please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



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