



**Representative Thomas F. Patton**

H.R. 374 – House Government Oversight Committee

Sponsor Testimony

April 16, 2024

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Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on House Resolution 374. I am honored to testify on behalf of myself and my joint sponsor, Rep. Steve Demetriou, who could not be here today.

House Resolution 374 honors the one hundredth anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Ireland. On June 28, 1924, the United States officially recognized the Irish Free State as a sovereign state with autonomous control over its own foreign relations. We hope this resolution will be adopted by the House of Representatives in time to be received by the Irish Embassy before the 100-year anniversary on June 28.

I have testified before this committee in the past about the importance and prevalence of Irish heritage in Ohio. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are nearly 1.5 million Irish Americans living in Ohio. Irish laborers were largely responsible for the construction of Ohio's canals, bridges, and factories in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Today, diplomatic ties between Ohio and Ireland are stronger than ever. House Resolution 374 acknowledges the strong relationship between our two states and offers a bright outlook on our shared future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today, and thank you to my joint sponsor, Rep. Demetriou, for being a continued friend and supporter of Irish Americans. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.