



Senator Andrew O. Brenner – 19th District
Senator Bill Reineke – 26th District
House State and Local Government Committee
November 20, 2024
Senate Bill 62 – Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, and Ranking Member Brennan, thank you for this opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 62. This legislation seeks to designate October 4th as “Rutherford B. Hayes Day”.

A citizen of the great state of Ohio, President Hayes left a legacy that touched the lives of many. He attended Kenyon College and Harvard Law School and practiced law in the cities of Sandusky and Cincinnati. Before running for President, Hayes also served in the United States House of Representatives and served three terms as the Governor of Ohio. After a historically hard-fought election, often compared to President George W. Bush’s 2000 election, Rutherford B. Hayes was elected the 19th president of the United States in 1877.

As President, Rutherford B. Hayes was widely recognized for his work in creating the concept of career technical education. To this day, trade skills are the backbone of the American economy, and President Hayes' commitment to developing these programs has resulted in the creation of new jobs that had not previously existed. This still holds true today.

A longstanding advocate and steward for education, President Hayes is also known for his efforts as Governor, which are in part responsible for the founding of The Ohio State University. In 1870, he encouraged the Ohio GA to pass a bill to create a land grant university, which they did. Legislation soon went into effect to found the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College after which President Hayes began the important work of appointing trustees for the university and getting the ball rolling. His work laid the foundation for what OSU has become today.

During his time in office, President Hayes undertook a monumental effort to restore the integrity of civil service by shifting away from the patronage system towards a merit-based model. He made waves in 1879 by signing into law that women may be admitted to the Supreme Court Bar and allowed to argue cases at the high court,

impacting the careers and education of women across America.

President Hayes always said that he would only serve one term and true to his word, he retired to his home in Fremont after that term. Although he passed away more than one hundred years ago, he lives on through the many positive changes that he brought to Ohio. We hope that by designating October 4th as “Rutherford B. Hayes Day,” we will continue to remind future generations of President Hayes’ influence and legacy.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing us to present testimony to this legislation to honor a distinguished Ohio President. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.