



State Rep. Ismail Mohamed

Sponsor Testimony – H.B. 247

Chair Wiggam, Vice-Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and Members of the Committee,

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to stand before you today to introduce House Bill 274, which designates June 20th as *World Refugee Day* in the state of Ohio.

This bill is deeply personal to me and many of us who understand the immense hardships refugees face. June 20th is recognized globally as World Refugee Day, a day to honor and acknowledge the millions of refugees around the world who have been forced to flee their home countries due to conflict, persecution, and violence. World Refugee Day is not only a day of remembrance, but also a day to celebrate the strength, resilience, and courage of refugees.

By designating June 20th as World Refugee Day in Ohio, we send a clear message of support to the refugees who have found new hope and opportunity within our communities. We recognize their contributions and remind the world that refugees are not just victims of hardship but are also valuable members of society with incredible potential. They bring diverse perspectives, skills, and cultural richness that enhance the fabric of our state and our nation.

This bill is a call to action. It is an opportunity for Ohioans to stand in solidarity with those who have been displaced from their homes and to reflect on the importance of compassion and humanity in the face of adversity. It is also a moment for us to remember that the struggles of refugees are far from over.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support House Bill 274, a bill that will help foster a more supportive environment for refugees here in Ohio and around the globe. We can send a strong message that Ohio stands with refugees and honors their contributions to our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.