



Chair Miller, Vice Chair Hiner, Ranking Member Jarrells, and members of the House Arts, Athletics, and Tourism Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written proponent testimony in strong support of House Resolution 101.

My name is David Gilbert, and I have the honor of serving as President & CEO of both Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and Destination Cleveland. I would like to thank Representative Bird and Representative Brewer for their work on this resolution, as I am writing today in support of HR 101, the resolution to support Cleveland's bid for the 2030 Special Olympics USA Games—an event that promises national significance as well as deep local impact. The 2030 Special Olympics USA Games will bring together all 50 states, along with delegations from Canada and the Caribbean, for a weeklong competition filled with camaraderie and celebration, right in the heart of Greater Cleveland. We anticipate welcoming 5,500 athletes and coaches, 10,000+ volunteers, and 100,000+ fans, with an estimated economic impact of over \$70 million. But as we all know, the real value of this opportunity goes far beyond the numbers.

Over the past 25 years, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission has brought more than 270 sporting events to Northeast Ohio, generating over one billion dollars in economic impact. But more importantly, these events leave a meaningful legacy in our region and our state. The Special Olympics USA Games would build a legacy of inclusion, empowerment and community pride.

Securing this bid will require an extraordinary level of collaboration, and I am proud to say that Cleveland is ready. Since submitting our bid to host these games, we have received overwhelming support from the community—including hotels, sports venues, state & local leaders, and Clevelanders at large. We can't do it without the support of our fellow Ohioans. We need all of Cleveland and all of Ohio to stand behind this bid and show the country what true community support looks like.

Thank you again to Chair Miller and the members of this committee for your consideration. I strongly urge passage of HR 101.