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HARAZ N. GHANBARI

State Representative | Ohio House District 75

April 1, 2025

Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Concurrent Resolution No. 7.

I am honored to stand before you today to express my strong support for H.C.R. No. 7, a resolution to support and encourage the work of the American Legion Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

Since its founding in 1936, the American Legion Buckeye Boys State program has served as one of the largest and most impactful educational and leadership programs in the country. Each year, over 1,200 young men from nearly 600 high schools across Ohio gather for an immersive eight-day experience to learn the workings of city, county, and state government. Through this non-partisan program, these students gain invaluable insights into democracy, civic engagement, and leadership. Participants leave equipped with the skills, knowledge, and inspiration to become engaged citizens and future leaders in our communities.

Similarly, since 1946, the Buckeye Girls State, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary of Ohio, has provided young women in Ohio with an equally transformative experience. Delegates participate in activities such as government workshops, legislative sessions, campaigning, debating, and voting. This comprehensive program nurtures leadership skills, self-confidence, and character in young women while promoting the importance of good citizenship.

Both outstanding programs have played a pivotal role in shaping generations of Ohio youth. By investing their time and resources, the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to developing the future leaders of Ohio and our nation. The educational value and personal growth these programs provide are immeasurable.

I urge this committee to join me in supporting H.C.R. No. 7 and affirming our dedication to the continued success of Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State. By passing this resolution, we send a powerful message that Ohio values civic education, leadership development, and the positive impact these programs have on our youth.

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of this resolution. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Haraz N. Ghanbari".

Haraz N. Ghanbari
Member of the Ohio House of Representatives