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*Advocating for Life, Faith, and Freedom in the Public Square*

To: Members of the House Education Committee  
From: Chris Long, President Ohio Christian Alliance  
Re: Proponent Testimony H.C.R 22

I would like to thank Chairman Fowler Arthur, Vice Chairman Odioso, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the House Education Committee for hearing our testimony today in support of H.C.R 22, Ohio Reads The Declaration of Independence, which encourages Ohio school children to read the U.S. Declaration of Independence during the 2025 – 2026 school year. President Trump’s 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Initiative is already planning many wonderful, meaningful celebrations in recognition of the longest standing republic in world history.

It has often been said that the fireworks are in the documents. John Adams said in a letter to Abigail Adams concerning the signing of the Declaration of Independence, “I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

The Ohio Christian Alliance was the initiator of The Founding of America Documents Curriculum, signed into law in 2012 by Governor John Kasich. The legislation requires all Ohio 88 school districts to teach the Founding Documents from the 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades with an end of course exam, namely The Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution with an emphasis on the Bill of Rights, the Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers, The Northwest Ordinance, and The Ohio Constitution. Ohio school children are now in their 13<sup>th</sup> year of this focused curriculum. As a result, they score higher in American Government and American History than their counterparts in bordering states.

Keeping history alive, the Ohio Christian Alliance was the initiator of the D-Day Prayer Project, the effort to add FDR’s D-Day Prayer in its entirety at the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. Working with the U.S. Parks Service and the Friends of the WWII Memorial, OCA/CAA saw the completion of the project as the construction was completed in December of 2022 and the prayer was dedicated in June of 2023.

Ohio Christian Alliance is now working on a literacy program called LifeRead Volunteer Reading Tutoring Initiative, helping Ohio school children reach reading proficiency. LifeRead works with children, young people, and adults. Some of the reading material we use when helping students to improve their reading proficiency is classical literature and historical documents such as The Declaration of Independence and The Gettysburg Address.

The thing to remember about this document is that it was written before there were political parties and divisions. We were Americans united for the cause of independence.

Thank you, Chairman Fowler Arthur and members of the House Education Committee. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.