



April 27, 2025

Chair Sharon Ray  
77 South High Street, Floor 11  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Letter of Support RE: Senate Bill 21

Chair Ray:

On behalf of the Ohio History Connection, we would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 21; legislation that would designate October 4<sup>th</sup> as "Rutherford B. Hayes Day."

For background, the Ohio History Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, is a statewide history organization with the mission to spark discovery of Ohio's stories, to embrace the present, share the past, and transform the future. As a nonprofit organization chartered in 1885, the Ohio History Connection carries out history services for Ohio and its citizens focused on preserving and sharing the state's history. This includes housing the State Historic Preservation Office, the official state archives, educational and community outreach and managing more than 50 sites and museums across Ohio.

Rutherford B. Hayes was born on October 4, 1822 in Delaware, Ohio and had an illustrious career as a lawyer and then public servant. Hayes served in Congress towards the end of the Civil War and then became Governor of Ohio, on two separate occasions. He went on to serve as the 19<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and has the distinction of being the first U.S. President to have been both born in and elected from the Buckeye State.

Ohio is home to eight U.S. Presidents and the state recently designated April 27<sup>th</sup> as "Ulysses S. Grant Day." There is a pending proposal in the Ohio House to designate November 19<sup>th</sup> as "James A. Garfield Day." It is only fitting that we now add October 4<sup>th</sup> as "Rutherford B. Hayes Day."

We would like to thank State Senator Bill Reineke and State Senator Andrew Brenner for bringing Senate Bill 21 forward as it is a well-deserved acknowledgement and will help us continue to celebrate and honor the life and contributions of Rutherford B. Hayes. As such, we would respectfully ask the committee to favorably pass this bill.

If you have any questions regarding our support, please feel free to e-mail me at [kboehner@ohiohistory.org](mailto:kboehner@ohiohistory.org) or by phone at 614-297-2355.

Sincerely,

Kevin Boehner  
Director of Government Relations  
Ohio History Connection