

**4<sup>th</sup> House District**

Parts of NE Franklin County  
Including Gahanna, New Albany,  
Westerville, Columbus, Jefferson,  
Plain, and other area Townships

**Committees**

Children & Human Services  
Education  
Finance  
Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review  
Workforce & Higher Education  
Ranking Member

**Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio  
4<sup>th</sup> House District**

Testimony to the House General Government Committee  
House Bill 224  
May 13, 2025

Chair Ray, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee, thank you for inviting Representative Grim and me to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 244.

House Bill 244 would officially codify March as Women's History Month in Ohio, ensuring it becomes a permanent, legally recognized observance. While this designation already exists at the federal level, establishing Women's History Month in Ohio law would create a stronger framework for celebrating and honoring the extraordinary contributions of women throughout our state's history. Ohio has been home to many trailblazing women who have made significant strides in fields such as politics, education, civil rights, the arts, and science. By dedicating a month to celebrate these achievements, we can raise awareness of their contributions and ensure their stories become an integral part of Ohio's broader historical narrative.

An Ohio Women's History Month would serve as a powerful educational resource, offering schools, museums, libraries, and cultural organizations the opportunity to bring the stories of local women to life. By officially recognizing Women's History Month in Ohio law, we honor trailblazers like Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose Uncle Tom's Cabin and work with Underground Railroad figures helped ignite the abolitionist movement, and Dorothy Dandridge, the first African American actress nominated for an Academy Award, who shattered Hollywood's racial barriers. We also celebrate Jerrie Mock, the first woman to fly solo around the world, and Florence Allen who was the first woman to serve on the Ohio Supreme Court, the first woman ever to serve on a high court in the nation and first women ever to be elected as a judge in the nation and first woman to serve on the federal bench!

These women's groundbreaking achievements in their respective fields continue to inspire and empower women everywhere. This initiative would provide Ohioans of all ages the chance to learn about the diverse legacies of women who have shaped our state's history. By codifying Women's History Month, we ensure that these extraordinary stories are taught and celebrated year after year, inspiring future generations to dream bigger, break barriers, and make their own mark.

Additionally, Women's History Month could strengthen community ties and foster a sense of pride in our state's history. By celebrating the achievements of local women, we create a connection between the past and present, while providing opportunities for citizens to engage in statewide dialogue about gender equity and the importance of

diverse representation. This observance could inspire local governments, schools, businesses, and organizations to collaborate on events that raise awareness of women's contributions, fostering a deeper, more inclusive understanding of our shared history. In doing so, we can empower the leaders of tomorrow and advance gender equality today.

By codifying Women's History Month into Ohio law, we can ensure that the stories of women from our state—both past and present—are given the recognition they deserve. This recognition would foster a deeper appreciation for the diverse contributions women have made to Ohio's growth and progress, while providing an inspiring model for young girls. It would demonstrate the power of their potential and encourage them to pursue leadership roles within their own communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.