



**Ohio Senate**  
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**Michele Reynolds**  
State Senator  
3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 14, which proposes to designate September 28 as "Speaker Jo Ann Davidson Day" in Ohio.

Speaker Jo Ann Davidson was a trailblazer in every sense of the word. She made history as the first woman to serve as Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, where she led with conviction, integrity, and a deep commitment to serving the people of Ohio. Throughout her more than two decades in the House, Speaker Davidson championed countless initiatives aimed at bettering the lives of Ohioans. She understood the weight of her role and used her platform not only to advance sound policy but also to open doors for others—especially women. Speaker Davidson's impact went far beyond the policies she championed. She was a mentor to many, guiding and encouraging a new generation of women in politics and public service. Her leadership set a standard of excellence and compassion, inspiring others to pursue public service with integrity.

Designating her birthday, September 28, as Speaker Jo Ann Davidson Day is a meaningful tribute, one that will remind Ohioans of her legacy and inspire future leaders to follow her example. With her recent passing at age 97, we have lost a giant in Ohio public service, but her influence lives on. This legislation unanimously passed the senate last general assembly—a testament to the respect and admiration Speaker Davidson earned from colleagues across the political spectrum.

At this time, I'd like to take a moment to share a video in honor of her legacy:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIVeq7wrvlo>

In closing, I respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 14 to commemorate and honor the legacy of Speaker Jo Ann Davidson, a true public servant and an inspiration to all who knew her. Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Reynolds".

Michele Reynolds  
State Senator  
3<sup>rd</sup> State Senate District