

Senator Michele Reynolds
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, First Floor 128
Columbus, Ohio 43215

January 28, 202

Dear Senator Reynolds,

I am writing in support of your legislation, Senate Bill 14, that calls for the creation of the Jo Ann Davidson Day. Speaker Davidson was one of the most important leaders for Ohio in the last half century.

I had the honor to work with her from her first days in the Ohio General Assembly through my public service work at Ohio University for the Appalachian region and State of Ohio. This work included leading the George V. Voinovich Center and then Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service. Speaker Davidson played a central role in helping create both the Center and School through her work with former Governor George V. Voinovich. Both shared a belief and commitment to improving the lives of the citizens of Ohio. Both focused on getting things done!

Jo Ann Davidson had a remarkable career with several major accomplishments during her tenure as Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives from 1995 to 2000. She made history by becoming the first woman elected as Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives. She was instrumental in advancing education reform, focusing on improving the quality of education and increasing funding for schools. She supported various healthcare initiatives aimed at expanding access to healthcare services and improving health outcomes for Ohio's citizens. Her public service continued for nearly 25 years beyond her Speakership as she served in advisory roles to the leaders of the state, providing consulting on policy and strategy, leading and serving on Boards and Commissions, and serving as the Ohio Republican National Committee Co-Chair for many years.

Davidson's legacy continues to inspire many in the field of politics and public service – people who would no doubt join me in supporting the creation of the Jo Ann Davidson Day. Some of these citizens benefited from another part of her legacy: the Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute that trained and mentored women interested in public service from across Ohio.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Weinberg