



SENATOR STEVE WILSON

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
March 4, 2026
Senate Bill 254

Senate Bill 254 – Change Ohio Deaf History Month to the month of April

Thank you, Chair Manchester, Vice-Chair Brenner, and Ranking Member Weinstein, for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 254, joint-sponsored by Senator Craig and myself.

I would like to note that this legislation is probably the most simple and straightforward bill on the Committee's agenda today.

In 2017, Governor Kasich signed Senate Bill 27 into law. Senate Bill 27, sponsored by Senator Bill Beagle, created Ohio Deaf History Month and aligned the dates with the *National* Deaf History Month. Senator Craig and I were cosponsors of that legislation.

Under current law – and since Senate Bill 27 went into effect eight years ago – Ohio Deaf History Month is recognized from March 13 – April 15. Within the last few years, *National* Deaf History Month went from being recognized from March 13 – April 15, to now being recognized exclusively during the month of April.

The bill before you today will align the dates we recognize Ohio Deaf History Month with the same dates as the *National* Deaf History Month.

Thank you for your time. I stand ready to answer any questions the Committee may have.