

As Offered

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. R. No. 369

Speaker Huffman, Representatives Isaacsohn, Bryant Bailey, Abdullahi, Abrams, Baker, Barhorst, Bird, Brennan, Brent, Brewer, Brownlee, Callender, Claggett, Click, Cockley, Craig, Creech, Daniels, Dean, Deeter, Demetriou, Dovilla, Ferguson, Fischer, Fowler Arthur, Ghanbari, Glassburn, Grim, Gross, Hall, D., Hall, T., Hiner, Holmes, Hoops, Humphrey, Jarrells, John, Johnson, King, Kishman, Klopfenstein, Lampton, LaRe, Lawson-Rowe, Lear, Lett, Lorenz, Manning, Mathews, A., Mathews, T., McClain, McNally, Miller, J., Miller, K., Miller, M., Mohamed, Moore, Mullins, Newman, Odioso, Oelslager, Peterson, Piccolantonio, Pizzulli, Plummer, Rader, Ray, Richardson, Ritter, Robb Blasdel, Robinson, Roemer, Rogers, Russo, Salvo, Santucci, Schmidt, Sigrist, Sims, Somani, Stephens, Stewart, Swearingen, Sweeney, Synenberg, Teska, Thomas, C., Thomas, D., Thomas, J., Tims, Troy, Upchurch, White, A., White, E., Williams, Willis, Workman, Young

A RESOLUTION

In memory of L. Helen Rankin. 1

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the 136th 2
General Assembly of Ohio extend our heartfelt condolences to the 3
family and friends of L. Helen Rankin in their bereavement; and 4

WHEREAS, Helen Rankin left an indelible impression in all of her 5
endeavors, and the State of Ohio benefited exponentially during her 6
service as an Ohio legislator, a career which spanned one appointment 7
and seven re-elected terms in office, for a total of sixteen years. 8
Appointed to the 112th General Assembly as the member for the Ohio 9
House of Representatives 25th District, which was subsequently 10
redistricted to the 30th District, Helen Rankin was the first African 11
American woman to serve in the state legislature, and she was a 12

dependable and esteemed advocate for women's health, children, and the 13
underprivileged. She proved to be a champion for greater access to 14
insurance coverage, Medicaid reimbursement, special services for 15
impaired Ohioans, and Title XX Comprehensive Social Services 16
initiatives, and during her more than fifteen-year tenure, she was a 17
member of the Finance and Appropriations and Human Resources 18
committees. The wealth of experience she brought to her posts will be 19
remembered as a storied history of public service; and 20

WHEREAS, Helen Rankin's regard for improving the quality of life 21
in our society was reflected in her continued leadership in her 22
community, and she was esteemed for her character and strong values. 23
She was a longtime supporter of such entities as the Shalom Habitat 24
for Humanity Project, the Emanuel Community Center, and New Vision 25
United Methodist Church, and her meaningful efforts earned her the 26
respect of many. Her absence will, indeed, be keenly felt in countless 27
realms; and 28

WHEREAS, Helen Rankin always used her talents to the benefit of 29
others, and the laurels of her life stand as a tribute not only to her 30
but also to the people who shaped her life, including her husband, the 31
late James, her children, James, Sharron, and Connie, and her seven 32
grandchildren. Although the void her death has created can never be 33
filled, the legacy of care and commitment she established will surely 34
live on. The world is a richer place for her having been in it, and 35
the impact she made during her lifetime will be her eternal legacy; 36
therefore be it 37

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of 38
the 136th General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, 39
express a profound sense of loss and sincere regret at the passing of 40
L. Helen Rankin and, in so doing, salute the memory of an honorable 41
woman; and be it further 42

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit 43
a duly authenticated copy of this Resolution to the family of L. Helen 44
Rankin. 45