



May 17, 2022

Chair Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address my concerns today about the unconscionable actions of our sister country to our north.

I support House Resolution 194, as do many of my pastor brethren across our state, and I am encouraged that the people's house of our state would be even considering to urge the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom to add Canada to the Special Watch List.

Injustice should initiate a response in freedom loving people. While this resolution enumerates some of the more egregious and onerous examples, we must also remember the millions of congregants across that nation – regardless of their religious order – who were forced to face an unprecedented upheaval in their daily lives and routine as well as deaths of co-workers, friends or family members without the spiritual guidance and the helpful network of their fellow churchgoers.

I would encourage the passage of this resolution also because of its proximity to our state. Although it is not our preferred method of travel, the shores of Canada and the shores of Ohio at the widest point of Lake Erie is the approximate distance between Columbus and the cities of Dayton, Mansfield or Zanesville.

Over the past forty years, I have established strong friendships with some Canadian Baptist pastors and have had multiple interactions with numerous pastors and churches across Canada, speaking in a majority of its provinces. I have discovered that as a whole, while the Canadian people may not be as demonstrative as their neighbors in the States, they are a kind, hospitable and helpful people – of course, hockey games, excluded.

I was personally grieved to hear the reports over the past two years from pastors across that nation from British Columbia through Nova Scotia. Police often investigated churches if they observed vehicles in their parking lots. When churches were finally permitted to open with a cap on attendance, police arrived to ensure those caps were being enforced. For months, as groups of only ten were permitted in the same room, a Baptist pastor in Quebec held ten to twelve services in a row on Sundays to keep from being arrested.



We should also consider what statement we are making by inaction. What are we teaching the following generation: Refrain from any involvement in the affairs of others until it affects you personally? Live in your own little bubble, oblivious to the problems of the world, until a pin pops that bubble? Or stand up and say something when you see wrongs in our society - attempt to make them right.

The overreach of the Canadian government and the high-handed tactics which they have employed, in my opinion, must be addressed. Thank you for your willingness to do so.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan L. Wolvin".

Pastor Daniel L. Wolvin