

The First Hungarian Reformed Church

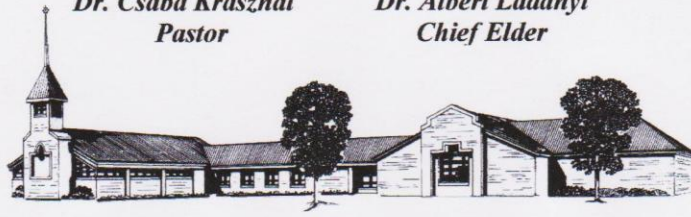
14530 Alexander Road, Walton Hills, OH 44146

Phone: (440) 786-7272 Email: fhrcwh@gmail.com



Dr. Csaba Krasznai
Pastor

Dr. Albert Ladanyi
Chief Elder



Senator Kristina D. Roegner
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

December 7, 2021

Dear Senator Roegner,

My name is Csaba Krasznai. I am the pastor of The First Hungarian Reformed Church of Cleveland, Ohio. This church was the first Hungarian Protestant Reformed congregation that was officially established in the United States on May 3, 1891. I am also the Bishop of the Calvin Synod Conference of the United Church of Christ. Our Magyar (Hungarian) Synod was officially established on March 14, 1939.

Ohio and actually Cleveland has the biggest population of Hungarians in the United States, about 100,000 Hungarians live in Cleveland and its neighboring areas but there are even more if we count the third and fourth generation Hungarian descendants. Our Hungarian forefathers had come to America to seek their fortunes in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Please allow me to share why I would find the establishment and work of the Office and Commission on Eastern European Affairs important in the life of the Hungarian people in Ohio.

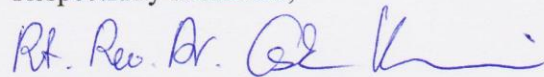
In April of 2019 Lydia Mihalik Director of the Ohio Department of Development and His Excellency Peter Szijjarto Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The document pledged broader economic cooperation between the two parties. The leaders said that the 25 years of cooperation between the Ohio National Guard and the Hungarian Defense Forces laid the groundwork for the deal. These economical, political, and military relations between America and Hungary enhance and help to grow stronger together and stimulate a more effective cooperation. The Commission of Eastern European Affairs in Ohio could further strengthen these economical and political ties in the Hungarian communities in Ohio, and also between America and Hungary.

In addition to the economical growth, we Hungarians, as other Eastern European ethnic communities in Ohio, lay much emphasis on our culture. The Eastern European Commission in Ohio could promote our Hungarian heritage through an established and well-working network that would connect those who emigrated from Hungary or were born here and they want keep their Hungarian heritage and culture.

Promoting education and scholarship opportunities would be another strong pillar of the work of the Eastern European Commission in Ohio. The Hungarian young people, who come to America today, unfortunately do not have well developed education programs and an effective support system. For Hungarians and other Eastern European immigrants it is difficult to find help and support. They could only find housing, new job, school, etc. if they get in contact with Hungarians living in that same city or town. Therefore, it is important for them to know where and who they could turn to for guidance and help. A central office could certainly help them to find support and useful information. The Eastern European Commission in Ohio could provide such help for them.

Therefore I strongly support the Senate Bill 46, Creating an Office and Commission on Eastern European Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to write this support letter.

Respectfully submitted,



Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai

Pastor

First Hungarian Reformed Church
of Cleveland, OH

Bishop

Calvin Synod Conference
of the United Church of Christ