



STATE SENATOR  
**CHARLETA B. TAVARES**

15<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**Sponsor Testimony**  
**Presented by: Senator Charleta B. Tavares**  
**Senate Resolution 60**  
**Government Oversight and Reform**  
**Senator William P. Coley, II, Chair**  
**Thursday, December 6, 2018**

Good morning, Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Schiavoni and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Resolution 60, which will designate March 8<sup>th</sup> as International Women's Day. This legislation honors the economic, political, and social achievements of all women, and recognizes the importance of women actively challenging gender prejudice and continuing to fight for women empowerment.

International Women's Day has been celebrated globally for over one hundred years, and was officially recognized by the United Nations as an international observance in 1975. Globally, the day sheds light on

the continuous efforts of women to address issues that negatively impact the lives of women.

In Ohio, International Women's Day will serve as a celebration of women's achievements, but also a reminder for the work that's left to be done in advancing the conversation on gender inequality as it relates to disparities present in the workforce, the educational system, and government.

Here are just a few facts that can be highlighted on International Women's Day in Ohio:

- Women with full-time jobs still earn only about 77 percent of their male counterparts' earnings, with African American women only earning 64 cents and Latina women earning 56 cents for every dollar earned by a Caucasian man.
- All over the world, 62 million girls are denied an education.
- Every year, an estimated 15 million girls under 18 are married worldwide, with little or no say in the matter.
- 4 out of 5 victims of human trafficking are girls.

- According to the UN Foundation, at least 250,000 maternal deaths and as many as 1.7 million newborn deaths would be averted if the need for both family planning and maternal and newborn health services were met.
- Women around the world aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war, and malaria.
- Around the world, only 32 percent of all national parliamentarians or congress members are women.
- Women currently only hold 4.8 percent of CEO positions at S&P 500 companies.
- One in five women on U.S. college campuses will experience sexual assault.
- One in three women worldwide will experience either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

- And, American women serving in Iraq or Afghanistan are more likely to be raped by a comrade then killed by an enemy, and the rate of sexual harassment reports are steadily increasing.

With these statistics in mind, I ask that we think about our daughters, mothers, partners, grandmothers and granddaughters, aunts, cousins, and friends who will have to live these experiences no matter where they are in the world and consider how Senate Resolution 60 may help to spark a conversation in Ohio on how to change these realities for future generations.

International Women's Day in Ohio can be used to draw attention to the issues of discrimination, violence, and exploitation of women around the world, and push our citizens to continue to build on the work being done to bring an end to the challenges that women face worldwide.

Chairman Coley and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this matter and I respectfully request your favorable

consideration and passage of Senate Resolution 60. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.