



Representative Al Cutrona
59th Ohio House District

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for HB 72. The United States is a melting pot of cultures and ideas, and as a proud Hispanic, it only made sense to sign on as a joint-sponsor for legislation honoring those of the Hispanic and Latino community.

Originally, National Hispanic Heritage Month was founded as National Hispanic Heritage Week. It was enacted in 1968 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, to recognize the contributions of people of Hispanic and Latino community, and to celebrate the culture as part of our shared American Experience. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded National Hispanic Heritage Week to a month long celebration of the culture and work that people of Hispanic descent contribute to our great nation.

Throughout the decades, Americans of Hispanic descent have proudly defended our country in wars and enriched the lives of all Ohioans through contributions to such fields as business, technology, science, education, religion, entertainment, politics, and the arts. Throughout my entire life, I have seen these contributions firsthand and could not be more proud of my community.

I am truly honored to sponsor this legislation recognizing the accomplishments of the members of the Hispanic and Latino community. I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to testify and welcome any questions that you may have.

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77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-6107
FAX: 614-719-3959
Email: rep59@ohiohouse.gov