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Jeffrey A. Crossman
State Representative
15th House District

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Chair Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee; thank you for allowing me to present written Sponsor testimony on House Bill 148 to celebrate February 21st as “Congressman John Lewis Voter Registration Day” and to encourage Ohioans to register to vote.

This bill was introduced to honor the life and service of Congressman John Lewis – an American hero whose involvement with the civil rights movement will always be remembered in our nation’s history. Congressman Lewis was a fervent supporter of ensuring that every person who could vote should have the ability to do so, for he knew that the only way to sustain long-lasting and positive change in our nation is to will the people’s ability to carry out one of their protected freedoms.

House Bill 148 would designate Congressman Lewis’ birthday as a day to promote voter registration throughout the state of Ohio. February 21st would be promoted by our state’s board of elections to encourage voter registration and to ensure, as Congressman Lewis fought for, that everyone has the opportunity to cast their vote and let their voices be heard.

Congressman Lewis famously said, “The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy. And we have to use it.”

Thank you for your consideration towards this legislation and for not only protecting the ability for Ohioans to vote, but promoting voter registration and celebrating one of the leading figures who sacrificed so much to protect the sacred vote. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to our office should you have any questions.