



Sponsor Testimony: House Resolution 369

Representative Steve Demetriou, 35th House District

Representative Nick Santucci, 64th House District

House Government Oversight Committee

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and Members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Resolution 369.

As Representative Demetriou mentioned, this legislation is intended to show support for a nation whose sovereignty has been challenged, and continues to be challenged to this day. In July of 1974, the Republic of Turkey staged a military invasion of Cyprus and began the occupation of the northern part of the island that we still see today. As a result of the 1974 invasion, 162,000 Greek-Cypriots were forced to leave their homes, and many have not been able to return due to the continued Turkish occupation of the northern part of the island.¹ For 50 years, this occupation has continued.

Trumbull County, where my district is located, is home to a significant population with Greek ancestry that has contributed greatly to our community. On behalf of my constituents of the 64th District, I encourage your support of House Resolution 369. In the face of all the turmoil that has disturbed our world in recent years, it is important not to forget the ongoing conflicts that have yet to be resolved, or the people whose homes have been overtaken by foreign powers. Let us not allow the passage of 50 years to lessen our consciousness of the pain and loss that the people of Cyprus have suffered since their homeland was severed in 1974. Rather, let us take this opportunity to honor the people of Cyprus and to demonstrate our continued respect for, and recognition of, their government's sovereignty over the entirety of the island.

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you again for giving me the opportunity to provide

¹ Republic of Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The Cyprus Question / Turkish military invasion and occupation." <https://mfa.gov.cy/turkish-military-invasion-and-occupation.html>.

sponsor testimony on House Resolution 369. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.