

House Bill 61 Proponent Testimony
State Senator Jerry C. Cirino
9/12/2023

Chair O'Brien, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of House Bill 61. HB 61, sponsored by Reps. Daniel Troy and Jaime Callender, would designate President James A. Garfield's Birthday on November 19th as "James A. Garfield Day" in Ohio & Orange Village, where he grew up. . As you may know, I also represent the James A. Garfield Home in Mentor, which hosts of one of my favorite events: the annual naturalization ceremony for the newest United States' citizens.

President James A. Garfield is someone Ohio should be proud to have in our state's history, as he was a proud statesman, Civil War Union General, congressman, and most importantly, our 20th President of the United States. President Garfield would be the youngest of four children from a family who fell into poverty after the tragic loss of his father. He would go on to work in Ohio's Canals to help support his family at the age of 16. Soon, he would attend college at what is now known as Hiram University, quickly taking on leadership roles and eventually winning an election to our very own Ohio Senate. His civil service would soon grow further as he climbed to the rank of Lt. Colonel in Ohio's 42nd Volunteer Infantry and work as a chief of staff for Major General Rosecran. This growth in his career created an opportunity for him to run for office, aiming and gaining leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he would go on to fight large government spending and international interventions. After being elected the 20th President years later, his memorable career would be cut short by his assassination on his life 200 days after his inauguration.

Therefore, to honor this standout civil servant and Ohioan, we should join our counterparts in the Ohio House in supporting HB 61 in establishing November 19th as "James A. Garfield Day".

Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I will take any questions.