September 12, 2023

Chair Sandra O'Brien
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 61

Chair O'Brien:

On behalf of the Ohio History Connection, we would like to offer our support for House Bill 61; legislation that would designate November 19th as "James A. Garfield Day."

For background, the Ohio History Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, is a statewide history organization with the mission to spark discovery of Ohio's stories, to embrace the present, share the past, and transform the future. As a nonprofit organization chartered in 1885, the Ohio History Connection carries out history services for Ohio and its citizens focused on preserving and sharing the state's history. This includes housing the State Historic Preservation Office, the official state archives, educational and community outreach and managing more than 50 sites and museums across Ohio.

Ohio is home to eight U.S. Presidents and the state recently designated April 27th as "Ulysses S. Grant Day." It is only fitting that the state designate November 19th as "James A. Garfield Day." He was born on this date in Orange Township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio in 1831. President Garfield was a brilliant scholar, orator, college president, and military officer.

Additionally, he served in the US House of Representatives before being elected as our nation's 20th President in 1880. He was unfortunately assassinated at the young age of 49 on September 19th, 1881. However, his memory should never be forgotten and designating November 19th as "James A. Garfield Day" is a fitting tribute to our nation's 20th President.

We would like to thank State Representative Dan Troy and State Representative Jamie Callender for bring House Bill 61 forward and we urge the committee to favorably pass this bill.

If you have any questions regarding our support, please feel free to e-mail me at kboehner@ohiohistory.org or by phone at 614-297-2355.

Sincerely,

Kevin Boehner
Director of Government Relations
Ohio History Connection