

## **Rep. Yuko Introduces Legislation Supporting Macedonian Rights** *Provides sponsor testimony before House committee*

COLUMBUS – State Representative Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) provided testimony this week about his recently-introduced House Concurrent Resolution 19 in the House State Government and Elections Committee. HCR 19 supports the rights of the Macedonian people in the Balkans.

“With such a large Macedonian population in greater Cleveland, I felt it was important for Ohio to support their basic and cultural rights,” said Rep. Yuko. “These are people like you and I who just want to be able to live their lives freely and speak their language, practice their customs, and live in peace. If we, as Americans, will not stand up and support the human rights of others, we are doing something wrong.”

The Republic of Macedonia, a small, landlocked country north of the Mediterranean Sea, declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and joined the United Nations in 1993. The United States officially recognized the country in 1994 and began recognizing it by its constitutional name ten years later. Macedonia and Greece, however, have agreed on little, resulting in disputes over naming and flags, a Greek embargo on the fledgling country in 1994 and 1995, and roadblocks in Macedonia’s attempts to join international organizations such as the European Union and NATO.

The bill now awaits a vote of the committee before it can be heard on the House floor.