



State Representatives

**Andrew Brenner
and
Wes Retherford**

**Sponsor Testimony of Representative Andrew Brenner and Wes Retherford
Regarding Ohio House Bill 238
Before the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee
Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Perales, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Armed Services, Veteran's Affairs, and Public Safety committee. I would like to thank you for taking the time to hear House Bill 238, which establishes the Veterans Fee Waiver Program.

The bill will require the Department of Veterans Services to establish and maintain the Veterans Waiver Program. This program will allow men and women who have served to receive a waiver when filing a document with the Ohio Secretary of State's office. Veterans can also have one initial license fee waived when applying for a license with a licensing agency. This will allow veterans who have served the opportunity to waive these fees providing that they are citizens of the State of Ohio and that they have not already have had a fee waived previously. This bill will also allow the Department of Veterans Services to verify if any veterans are eligible for a fee under the new waiver program and verify for the Secretary of State if the veteran has already applied.

This bill will make it easier for veterans to find employment opportunities after their service as well as allow them to more easily establish small businesses in the state of Ohio. The Veterans Fee Waiver Program will be a great opportunity for the State of Ohio to reach out to veterans and afford them greater opportunities after their duty to the United States and the state of Ohio. This bill is similar to a measure that received large bipartisan support in the Wisconsin State Assembly and was later signed into law by Governor Scott Walker in 2012.

I would like to thank the staff in our offices for all of their hard work on this legislation as well as the members of the Armed Services, Veteran's Affairs, and Public Safety committee for taking the time to hear this bill. I will be happy to discuss this bill with you further. Thank you.