



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 Lanese, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Armed Services, Veteran's Affairs, and Homeland Security committee. I would like to thank you for taking the time to hear House Bill 238, which establishes the Veterans Fee Waiver Program.

This body, over several years, has made several important improvements to the lives of veterans. House Bill 98 from the 130th General Assembly made trade licensure simpler for those with experience. In between, several other bills to help those who served of us so bravely have made their way into law. This bill will be another welcomed addition.

By allowing first time veteran business owners to file their business without the filing fee, is just a small step in making their post service life and goals a little easier. Ohio's veteran and military population is a large one. Wright Patt is one of the largest installations in the country. Eventually, these men and women will be looking for something outside the military. They all eventually leave, thru either retirement or not re-enlisting at the end of their contract. We also know that these men and women are some of the best and the brightest. Their dedication, sense of purpose, and work ethic is second to none. These are the exact sort of individuals we, as a state, should be fighting tooth and nail to keep in our workforce. Therefore, it would make sense to add these extra incentives and remove these hurdles so that way they will stay here and add their character to our great state.

By allowing them a free filing for their first business venture, we are showing that we believe in them and in their goals and dreams. We want them here and we want them to succeed. I strongly believe that passing House Bill 238 will send another loud message to our military and veteran community that the state of Ohio appreciates them, we want them to stay here in Ohio and we will continue to fight for them. I appreciate the time to testify and will be happy to answer any questions.