



Representative Miller's Sponsor Testimony on Behalf of HB 428 Regarding Veterans ID Card before the Armed Services and Veteran's Affairs Committee (As Prepared)

Members of the committee, Chairman Perales, Vice Chair Hood, and Ranking Member Weinstein. Thank you for allowing Representative Wiggam and me the opportunity to testify in support of HB 428. I also want to thank Representative Wiggam for his leadership on this legislation.

Under federal law, "uniformed services" includes the commissioned corps of NOAA and of the Public Health Service.

This legislation would make Ohio's law consistent with federal law. It gives Ohioans who serve in the Public Health Service and NOAA the benefits and distinction they have earned and deserve.

The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation. It does this through rapid response to public health needs, leadership in public health practices, and advancement of public health science. These men and women are the first boots on the ground should there be a SARS outbreak, a medical pandemic, or a sanitary or mass casualty emergency stemming from the result of natural or human made disaster. We benefit daily from their work, even if we do not see or know of them.

NOAA provides timely and reliable information to communities and businesses every day. Ohio relies on NOAA from farmers to families to factories. NOAA's work, like the Public Health Service excels every day; even if we only hear of them when there is a major weather event.

The Veterans ID card, an Ohio authorized form of identification, identifies and may serve as identification for voting.

These men and women often serve away from their families, in tough conditions. This is why they are considered part of our uniform services. Whether they are from Ohio or working in Ohio – lets give them the credit, benefit, and honor they deserve.

I appreciate the committee's time and am happy to answer any questions.