



**House Health Committee  
House Bill 287 – Military Medicaid Waivers  
Proponent Testimony  
17 September 2019**

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 287 and how the State of Ohio can continue to create a conducive environment for the families of our active-duty military service members.

My name is Jermaine Ferguson. I am the legislative coordinator for The American Legion Department of Ohio.

The American Legion Department of Ohio is the largest veterans-service organization in the State of Ohio, with a membership of over 90,000 wartime veterans. The American Legion's positions represent the views of its members and are based on our four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

The American Legion recognizes the quality-of-life of the individual servicemember and their respective family directly impacts military readiness. The American Legion seeks to improve the well-being of all children by advocating for measures that strengthen the family unit, by working with quality organizations that provide services for children, and by providing our communities with well-rounded programs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF



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House Bill 287 will add to the quality-of-life of the military servicemembers' family by ensuring that they will receive critical support services for their family member with special needs by granting eligibility for a Medicaid waiver as long as the individual was eligible for Medicaid home and community-based services in another state at the time of their transition to Ohio.

Active-duty service members receive permanent change of station (PCS) orders every 2-3 years. To uproot a family is never a seamless process but House Bill 287 can make the transition process easier for families with children with special needs and allow the family to transition together.

To make Ohio a conducive environment for families of our servicemembers with families we must eliminate any barrier that may prevent a family unit from staying together. When the servicemember can be assured that their family can receive the critical services they need – that servicemember can remain focused on its individual role in protecting our nation.

Chair Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 287.

Respectfully,

Jermaine C. Ferguson  
Legislative Coordinator