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**Daniel R. Palmer Jr.**  
**President**

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**OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
133<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
REPRESENTATIVE CANDICE KELLER  
CHAIR**

**HOUSE BILL 16  
PROPONENT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**DANIEL PALMER  
PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT BODY  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY**

**APRIL 9, 2019**

Chair Keller, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before you today in support of House Bill 16 that is sponsored by Representatives Perales.

To introduce myself, my name is Daniel Palmer. I am currently the President of the Student Body at Wright State University, and the former Executive Director of the Ohio Student Government Association. As the Executive Director for the Ohio Student Government Association, it was my job to advocate for the over 500,000 students in Ohio's 14 public institutions. In my capacity as the President of the Student Body and Executive Director, I have testified before House and Senate committees several times when bills directly affect the students of Ohio.

To start, it is important to illustrate the total impact this bill could have. According to Edward Millane of the Legislative Service Commission, "There are an estimated 1.2 million active duty members located outside Ohio without an advanced degree and about 613,000 active duty family members located outside Ohio without an advanced degree that are at least 18 years old, for a total of about 1.8 million individuals who may be newly eligible for in-state tuition under the bill." This bill will make Ohio a more attractive, welcoming, and accommodating state for our nation's heroes and their families. This would be sure to attract some of America's best to the State of Ohio, making us one of the best states in the country for our service members and their families. Few states rival what this bill proposes.

Wright State University is located in Dayton, Ohio, and sits right next to one of the largest Air Force bases in the United States – Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Wright Patterson Air Force Base is home to nearly 27,000 military members, civilians, and government contractor employees. This makes it the largest single site employer in the entire State of Ohio. Military members, veterans, and their families account for a significant percentage of the student body at Wright State University. Currently, over 750 students at Wright State University utilize the GI Bill in some way while an additional 300 students are active duty or veterans who opt to not use their GI Benefits.

With the expansion of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Wright State University saw a 300% increase in the number of students using the GI Bill. We knew we needed to act and created the Veteran and Military Center. This center is dedicated to serving our veterans and ensuring their needs are being adequately handled.

Through working with this office, I learned firsthand how important this bill means to service members and their families. Often times, families are forced to move frequently, making it difficult to establish residency within a state for a year to obtain in-state tuition. This places an undue burden on the family for simply serving

their country. If this bill were to be implemented, it would lessen the burden for military families to attend an institution of higher education.

Noting the importance of House Bill 16, the Student Government Association of Wright State University passed a resolution last fall endorsing this measure (This measure was House Bill 603 in the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly). I have attached the resolution below the testimony. Our student government also proposed Resolution 2018-03 to the Ohio Student Government Association at our annual summit. This resolution, attached below, also unanimously passed, becoming an official endorsement of this legislation.

Chair Keller, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the House Higher Education Committee, I Sincerely appreciate the opportunity to speak before your committee in support of House Bill 16. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

**Resolution 19-8:**

**A Resolution Endorsing House Bill 603**

**WHEREAS,** House Bill 603 was introduced by State Representative Rick Perales (District 73 -  
Beavercreek) on April 17, 2018 in the Ohio House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS,** House Bill 603 was referred to the Ohio House Higher Education and Workforce  
Development Committee on May 15, 2018 and is being considered by the  
committee for third consideration on the House Floor on November 28, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** According to Edward Millane of the Legislative Service Commission, “There are  
an estimated 1.2 million active duty members located outside Ohio without an  
advanced degree and about 613,000 active duty family members located outside  
Ohio without an advanced degree that are at least 18 years old, for a total of about  
1.8 million individuals who may be newly eligible for in-state tuition under the  
bill; and

**WHEREAS,** House Bill 603 grants residency status for the purpose of in-state tuition for all  
active duty members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents;  
now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** The Student Government Association assembled at Wright State University  
endorses House Bill 603 and emphasizes the importance of passage by the Ohio  
House of Representative, Ohio Senate, and subsequent approval by Governor  
John Kasich in the 132nd General Assembly.

Sponsored by

Daniel Palmer, President

Adrian Williams, Vice President

Ivan Mallett, Chief of Staff

Co-sponsored by

Kevin Jones, Chief Policy Officer

Beth Metcalf, Director of Student Affairs

2018-3

**A Resolution Endorsing House Bill 603**

**WHEREAS,** The Ohio Student Government Association represents approximately 500,000 students of public universities across the state of Ohio; and

**WHEREAS,** House Bill 603 was introduced by State Representative Rick Perales (District 73 - Beavercreek) on April 17, 2018 in the Ohio House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS,** House Bill 603 was referred to the Ohio House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee on May 15, 2018 and was considered by the committee for third consideration on the House Floor on November 28, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** According to Edward Millane of the Legislative Service Commission, “There are an estimated 1.2 million active duty members located outside Ohio without an advanced degree and about 613,000 active duty family members located outside Ohio without an advanced degree that are at least 18 years old, for a total of about 1.8 million individuals who may be newly eligible for in-state tuition under the bill; and

**WHEREAS,** House Bill 603 grants residency status for the purpose of in-state tuition for all active duty members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** The Ohio Student Government Association assembled endorses House Bill 603 granting in-state tuition for all active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, including their dependents, and emphasizes the importance of passage by the Ohio House of Representative, Ohio Senate, and subsequent approval by Governor John Kasich in the 132nd General Assembly.