



House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
House Bill 359
Proponent Testimony
10 December 2019

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill 359. Thank you, Representatives Richardson, and Wiggam for sponsoring this legislation.

My name is Jermaine Ferguson and I am the legislative coordinator for The American Legion Department of Ohio. The American Legion Department of Ohio is a leading veterans-service organization within the state, with a membership of over 90,000 wartime veterans. The American Legion Department of Ohio currently has 4,579 active World War II veterans on our membership roster.

I firmly believe that our World War II veterans are members of the Greatest Generation. World War II veterans not only served this great nation in a time of war, but they came home to join veteran service organizations like The American Legion to continue serving veterans and to serve their local communities. It was this generation who authored the GI Bill of Rights, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act which allowed 8 million veterans to go to school on the GI Bill to improve their family's economic well-being. Some World War II veterans remain active in leadership positions within The American Legion and in their local communities.

As I drive across the State of Ohio, I often come across specialized interest license plates that recognized military service or military honors pertaining to valor and service – I often take a moment to reflect and ponder what that individual experienced in their time of service.

House Bill 359 will eliminate all fees and taxes for registering World War II license plates which will lighten the financial burden for distinguished members of The Greatest Generation, who have given so much of their life to this great nation. Let us reflect on the humble service of our World War II veterans and show them our gratitude every chance we get.

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