



**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 287- Medicaid Waivers for Active Duty Military
Amy Schrimpf, Government Affairs Director
Dayton Development Coalition
Before the Ohio Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health & Medicaid
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Good morning Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Minority Member Thomas, and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Health & Medicaid.

My name is Amy Schrimpf, and I am the Government Affairs Director for the Dayton Development Coalition, an economic development organization that seeks to attract, retain, and grow jobs in the 14-county Dayton region. Our responsibility includes attracting and retaining new missions and jobs at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Springfield Air National Guard Base.

I am here today to submit proponent testimony for House Bill 287 which would allow children and dependents of active duty military service members to continue to receive Medicaid home and community-based services when they move to Ohio, if they are eligible for these services in another state at the time of the service member's transfer to Ohio.

The Dayton Development Coalition would like to thank Representative Allison Russo and Representative Rick Perales for their leadership on this bill, which is important to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, our state, and our national defense.

The Coalition is keenly aware that the military services are challenged to maintain enlistment levels, so they are looking increasingly to retain military members with families. To

make that strategy work, the military needs the communities in which their bases are located to support spouses and families. Quality of life issues for military families are expected to increasingly drive decisions by the military when they are selecting which defense installations will receive new jobs.

The Coalition works closely with the US Department of Defense's Defense-State Liaison Office to advance legislation that improves the quality of life for military families. The office has identified passage of House Bill 287 as one of the highest priorities for the State of Ohio.

Research provided by the Defense-State Liaison indicates that Ohio is one of only a handful of states that has not passed legislation to allow service members to retain these services for their eligible children and dependents. Even more important, states like Texas, Florida, Alabama and California, which often are our competitors for new missions, have passed similar legislation, giving them a bit of an advantage in quality of life considerations. For Ohio to remain competitive with these and other states, we need to enact this legislation and other policies that support military spouses and families.

Passage of this legislation would help achieve our goal of being one of the most family-friendly states in the nation, and it would also make the transition to Ohio easier for the families with children and dependents with special needs.

I thank you for the opportunity to offer the Dayton Development Coalition's support of this legislation and am happy to answer any questions. Again, thank you Mr. Chair.