



**COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION**
of the United States Public Health Service



**TESTIMONY OF LCDR Matthew Dahm, President of the Cincinnati Commissioned Officers
Association of the United States Public Health Service**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

RE: Ohio House Bill 16

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to testify in support of HB 16.

I represent active duty and retired Uniformed Services commissioned officers who are members of the Cincinnati Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and support HB 16, which would grant state college residency status to members of the Uniformed Services and their dependents. Many active duty military families have no permanent place to call home. This bill will benefit active duty servicemembers and make Ohio a destination of choice for those of us serving our Nation.

The USPHS Commissioned Corps consists of approximately 6,700 officers spread across the United States that staff the agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, USPHS Corps officers provide health services for the Coast Guard, the Bureau of Prisons, and the Department of Homeland Security as well as serve at other federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Park Service.

By granting in-state tuition at Ohio's institutions of higher learning to those families, HB 16 will encourage military families to come to and stay in Ohio in the long term. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio is already home to more than 864,000 veterans who contribute significantly to our state's economy. This legislation will help to create an optimal situation in which members of the Uniformed Services want to be assigned to posts in Ohio and will choose to stay in Ohio after they leave the military, growing Ohio's workforce. Additionally, this pro-military legislation will persuade the Federal Government to assign new missions to Ohio, thus adding even more jobs to Ohio's economy.

In short, the Cincinnati Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) is strongly in favor of HB 16 as a benefit to servicemembers and their families. Also, this legislation will help Ohio attract and keep members of the Uniformed Services, which will contribute to the overall economy by addressing Ohio's shrinking workforce.



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Sincerely,

Matthew Dahm

LCDR Matthew Dahm, PhD, MPH, REHS
3840 Country Club Pl
Cincinnati, OH 45208