

Senate Ways & Means Committee  
April 27, 2016  
Sponsor Testimony SB 18, Sen. Lou Gentile

Good morning Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for allowing me to give sponsor testimony this morning on Senate Bill 18.

This legislation would give a refundable tax credit to businesses that hire qualified veterans and members of the National Guard or reserves. This is a bill about prioritizing our veterans and military service members, with the added benefit of reducing the tax liability for small businesses who hire them.

This tax credit would be similar to the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit. For example, a business owner who hired a qualified veteran could claim the amount of the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit on their federal tax return, as well as claim that same amount on their state return. This amount can vary from \$2,400 to \$9,600. Alternatively, if a business hires a member of the Ohio National Guard or reserves, the business could claim 40% of that employee's wages up to \$6,000, or \$2,400 total, on their state tax return. Additionally, qualified veteran has the same meaning as defined by the IRS for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.

As Ohio businesses continue to evolve to meet the demands of consumers, military service men and women are highly trained and have essential skills for the workplace, including leadership, discipline, and attention to detail. Prioritizing their employment not only makes sense, but is critical in providing the support they deserve. In my experience travelling my district, I have heard from a number of business owners who have had great experiences hiring veterans, and from veterans who expressed their support of this kind of legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.