

**Committee Assignments:**

Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education – Chair  
Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security  
Higher Education and Workforce Development  
State and Local Government  
Public Utilities  
Finance



**Commissions/Special Committees:**

BRAC and Military Affairs Task Force – Chair  
Joint Legislative Veterans' Caucus – Chair  
Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee  
Ohio Third Frontier Commission Advisory Board  
Joint Committee on College Affordability  
Ohio Latino Affairs Commission

**State Representative Rick Perales**  
Ohio's 73<sup>rd</sup> House District: Western Portion of Greene County

**Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security**  
**House Bill 716 – Reciprocity**  
**Sponsor Testimony**  
**14 November 2018**

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to testify along side my good friend Representative Jim Butler on behalf of House Bill 716, a bill that would mandate temporary licenses for professional occupations for Active Duty military members and their spouses.

I echo everything that has been said so far by Representative Butler, but I want to briefly highlight the major factor that brings this legislation before you today: our warfighters and their families. For those of you who on this committee who have had the honor of wearing our nation's uniform, you know first hand how the service affects families. I cannot calculate the number of times my own service has impacted my family; sometimes positively, but a lot of times negatively. It has been widely reported that spousal unemployment is among the largest hardships faced by service member's spouses. Women and men who have professional licenses in highly employable fields such as education, various medical practices,

and real estate must often give up those careers to move with their families once their active duty spouse has been issued new orders to a new installation. The problem is so wide spread that the Office of Military Community and Family Policy under the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense has named professional license reciprocity as one of their top priorities to address nationwide in the coming years. House Bill 716 will set the standard for other states to emulate with license reciprocity. It will keep our warfighters spouses employed here in Ohio, and will prevent the all too common occurrence of families becoming separated due to working constraints.

House Bill 716 is truly a no brainer. Our warfighters and their families will benefit immeasurably from this legislation. My thanks to all of the parties Representative Butler mentioned, and additional thanks goes out to Mr. Jim Rickel of the DoD's Military Community and Family Policy for joining us in this venture and helping to make Ohio one of the top military and veteran friendly states in the nation.

It is for these reasons that I request favorable consideration of House Bill 716. Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify today and will answer any questions you may have.