

**Frank LaRose**  
**State Senator**  
**27th District**



Ohio Senate

Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square, Room 221  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-4823

**Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 116**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
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Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Minority Member Skindell, members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 116. This legislation allows military spouses to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits if they must discontinue their employment to accompany the military member to whom they are married. This policy change is one of several that are endorsed by the US Department of Defense, as well as the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, the Ohio National Guard, and nearly every major veteran's organizations in the state, in order to support service members and their families. This effort is a key component in the ongoing effort to make Ohio a more military-friendly state.

Currently, forty-six states and the District of Columbia provide unemployment compensation eligibility to military spouses. When a military family receives orders to relocate, spouses should not be penalized by the state for "voluntarily" leaving employment in order to keep their families intact. It is important that we support military families in this regard to ensure that they are not faced with the unfortunate choice of either losing income or geographically splitting up the family during a military reassignment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.