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Ohio Senate

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**Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 170
Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
September 26, 2017**

Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas, members of the Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 170. This legislation would require the Director of Public Safety to seek approval from the United States Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to implement a temporary pilot program, which would waive the skills test for a commercial driver's license for military veterans. This waiver would allow many qualified veterans the opportunity to pursue a profitable career as a truck operator.

Currently, veterans have two years from the time they are discharged from the military to use the current CDL training waiver and begin working as a professional truck driver. The removal of the restrictive two year time limit and waiver of the skills test would allow military veterans who, for at least two years of their enlistment or employment, regularly operated a vehicle equivalent to the commercial vehicle they are applying to operate, to be exempt from regularly required CDL licensure training.

At this time in Ohio, there are thousands of desirable high-paying trucking jobs that are going unfilled due to a lack of qualified individuals. In order to obtain a job as a truck operator, an individual must be drug free and over 21 years of age, making most veterans eligible for the job. Allowing veterans to use their experience earned from the military to forego the extensive and redundant training required for a CDL license, allows them to seamlessly transition to a new, rewarding career in the trucking industry. This legislation not only gives our veterans an opportunity for a profitable career, but also benefits Ohio businesses that are in need of qualified truck drivers.

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