



STATE SENATOR
CHARLETA B. TAVARES

15TH DISTRICT

SPONSOR TESTIMONY SB 107

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS

AFFAIRS

February 20, 2018

Chairman Uecker, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 107. This bill would allow both veterans who are blind or disabled and non-drivers who have a developmental disability to be issued a state identification card with an 8 year expiration date as opposed to the standard 4 year expiration date.

With Ohio's disabled population totaling an estimated 1.3 million individuals in 2017, we as representatives of the people must make sure that this sizable and important population is supported in any way possible. Wherever we can lift a burden or make life a little easier, we should strive to do so, and that is exactly what this bill does. Looking at our Veterans more specifically disabled veterans in my district have informed me that making it to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when their identification card is up for renewal comes with several challenges. Transportation can difficult to arrange and often times they are unable to make it to a BMV registrar. This leads to them being stuck with expired ID card while they attempt to arrange

transportation. As for those with developmental disabilities, they too have difficulty making it the trip to the BMV every 4 years to renew their ID cards, which leaves them stuck with an expired ID card as they attempt to procure the assistance they need. Currently, the state of Illinois allows all residents over the age of 65 to receive a non-expiring state identification card. I would like to modify this idea to assist both Ohio veterans who have sacrificed so much to defend our nation and Ohio's developmentally disabled population who deal with a plethora of other day to day struggles as is.

Chairman Uecker and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this issue and respectfully request your favorable consideration and passage of SB 107. Thank you for your time and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.