



Ohio House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Rick Perales, Chairman  
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 155  
*Todd Kleismit, Ohio History Connection*  
*Director of Community & Government Relations*  
*May 15, 2019*

Chairman Perales and members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee:

I regret that I cannot be with you today for the second hearing on House Bill 155, co-sponsored by now-Senator Schaffer and Representative Rogers. The Ohio History Connection is supportive of the "Ohio Veterans' Heritage Protection Act," and is committed to working with other stakeholders to help enact the provisions of HB 155 if approved by the Ohio General Assembly.

HB 155 authorizes the Ohio History Connection – this would be carried out through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) – to compile and maintain a registry of war relics. By war relics, we expect these relics to be principally cannons or other artillery and monuments relating to wartime service. The Ohio History Connection does not seek authority over these war relics, but we have agreed that maintaining a state registry would serve a useful state purpose. This would likely take some time and resources to build so we will need help and input from a variety of state and local organizations.

The Ohio History Connection appreciates the efforts of the legislative co-sponsors in support of HB 155. Again, I apologize for not being able to attend today's hearing in person. Please do not hesitate to contact me if anything additional is needed of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Kleismit".

Todd Kleismit  
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