



Chairman Oelslager, Vice-Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 282. My name is Kaelin Locker, and I am the Director of External Affairs at Resurrecting Lives Foundation (RLF).

Resurrecting Lives Foundation is an Ohio based 501(c)(3) with the mission to coordinate and advocate for the successful transition to a post-military career and life for veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI). RLF was founded in 2012 by Dr. Chrisanne Gordon after she suffered a mild TBI herself. It took her a year of recuperation to regain even some sense of normalcy and upon her recovery, she began volunteering at the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Affairs Care Center in Columbus. There, she worked in the TBI wing of the clinic, where she realized not enough was being done to help veterans with TBI. Shortly after, RLF was born.

At RLF, we advocate for proper diagnosing and care of veterans with TBI, whether that be at the VA or a private practice. We also help to connect veterans with non-medical forms of treatment that help mitigate the effects of TBI. Practices such as acupuncture, transcendental meditation and qi-gong are just some of the activities our veterans participate in.

In addition to connecting veterans to treatment, we also focus on keeping veterans employed. RLF has relationships with large corporations such as, Honda of America, Cardinal Health and Stihl, not just hire veterans, but employ them. A career is

a key part of a successful transition for veterans out of the military because it continues the sense of mission and belonging that everyone seeks.

AMVETS of Ohio has been a long time supporter of RLF through their monthly charitable bingo donations. As you know, charitable bingo was authorized by the Ohio Constitution in 1975. The Attorney General's Office regulates charitable gaming and allows gaming to take place at veteran service organizations, like Amvets, if the proceeds are donated to a 501(c)(3). We are incredibly grateful for the continued investment that Amvets makes in organizations like us, and believe that passing HB 282 will only aid in further assistance of veterans.

Thank you for your time, and I will happily answer any questions you may have.