

Witness Statement, House Bill 282
Sean S. Ennis, Honor Flight Cleveland
December 2, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation.

Honor Flight is an organization dedicated to paying tribute to U.S. military veterans who served our country by providing them a safe and memorable all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC to visit the memorials honoring their service.

In organizing the effort, with the assistance of the national organization, we had enough money for our first few flights which began in May of 2007. We were then left on our own to succeed or fail. We were able to succeed principally due to donations from Veterans Service Organizations (VSO's) which raised the money to support us through gaming at their posts.

I recall planning a subsequent year, with eight flights planned, with enough money on hand for the first two flights. From the early years, through today, we rely each year on VSO's. Our early success, funded by them through gaming has allowed us to receive support from many other sources, but it was built upon donations generated through gaming.

The result has been remarkable, beyond anything I had originally envisioned.