



Testimony for House Bill 686

State Representative Tracy Richardson, District 86

House Transportation and Public Safety Committee

November 15th, 2022

Good morning, Chairmen Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the committee. I am Representative Tracy Richardson and I am thrilled to be joining my joint sponsor, Representative Lanese, today. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 686, which creates an American Legion License Plate and corrects a mistake in House Bill 411 of the 133rd General Assembly.

Today we come before you to make a necessary correction and create a specialty license plate. This change will enable Ohioans to show their enthusiasm for veterans, and allow the creation and the purchase of the American Legion license plate.

The American Legion believes, “For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to prosperity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; and to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

Just a few days ago we celebrated Veterans Day, a time to acknowledge the selfless service of those Americans who have donned the uniform to protect and defend our Nation against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to uphold our constitution which is the supreme law of the

land. By moving this bill forward, we can continue to support the veterans who selflessly served our Nation and continue serving our communities.

I was honored to be asked to co-sponsor this bill by Rep. Lanese. I am a current member of Post 79 in Marysville and know first-hand the need for funding help and the valuable contribution Legions make to our communities. I must also add the American Legion operates the annual Buckeye Boys State experience. The remarkable week long opportunity develops leadership, an in-depth knowledge of state government, and encourages comradery.

The license plate will help keep the organization thriving and I humbly ask for your support.

Chairmen Baldrige, and the members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 686. We welcome any questions you may have.