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Sponsor Testimony- Senate Bill 290
Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
April 5th, 2022

Vice-Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 290.

Senate Bill 290 expands the existing exceptions to OPOTC training requirements. This bill excuses honorably discharged veterans, whose military service designation was in special operations, from the basic training for initial appointment or hiring in a specified law enforcement capacity.

As Chairman of the Law Enforcement Training Funding Study Commission, I heard testimonies from members of our law enforcement agencies emphasizing recruitment as one of the predominant issues our law enforcement agencies face today. Senate Bill 290 facilitates recruitment efforts by easing the entry of trusted, validated, and well-trained individuals into public service.

While this bill does excuse qualifying military veterans from the basic training requirements, this bill does not exempt them from continued training and firearm recertification requirements, and other applicable restrictions on continued service.

Our veterans are eager to transition into public service. The background and training of our veterans is second to none. Having often served globally in a range of environments, our veterans are equipped to serve in our varying communities. Their combined military training, service, and dedication to serving others, makes them exceedingly competent and capable of serving in public service.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 290.