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Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 113

Ohio House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee

December 5, 2023

Chairman Loychik, Vice Chairman Demetriou, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 113 on behalf of my colleague, Senator Hoagland.

As background, the Selective Service signup requirement was enacted in May of 1917, but the United States has not forced anyone to enter service since 1973. Senate Bill 113 expands the repercussions for not signing up for Selective Service, bolstering Ohio's laws to be in line with Federal Laws and many other States around the Country.

In 1985, the Federal Government enacted the Thurmond Amendment, which makes those who do not sign up with Selective Service ineligible for holding federal office or a federal government job. Senate Bill 113 will function as the Thurmond Amendment for Ohio by preventing those who do not sign up for Selective Service from holding public office or a state government job in Ohio.

Registration rates have become a significant problem, and a threat to our national security. According to Brad Willette, the Ohio State Director for the United States Selective Service System, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 73% of 18-year-old men registered with the Selective Service System. Just a couple years later, in 2022, that

percentage had dropped to 51%, meaning, of course, that 49% had not registered.

Having a strong pool of men to draw from in case of a national emergency is crucial. Signing up for Selective Service is already a mandatory requirement and a very small price to pay for our freedom. Those in Ohio who wish to serve in public office or hold a state government job should also be willing to sign up for Selective Service and accept the call should their country need them.

I will be happy to answer any questions at this time.