



# FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

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BUCK BRAMLISH

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Chairman Loychik, Vice Chair Demetriou, Ranking Member Miller, and Committee Members:

My name is Robert Bramlish, I am a Veteran and served 34 years in the Ohio Army National Guard and the United States Army. I currently serve as the executive director of the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission, beginning this role immediately following my last Active-Duty assignment in February 2016.

Considering almost eight years' experience in my current role leading one of the state's largest Veteran Service Commissions in one of the largest Veteran geographic regions; I wanted to share our Agency position that HB 69 and its recommended changes are not needed. You will hear testimony this Tuesday that post 9/11 Veterans are represented in our commissioners (board members) at a rate higher than their overall percentage of the Veteran population density. Further, our Agency staff is currently comprised of 60% post 9/11 Veterans – the majority of our staff, including both myself and my Assistant Director of Service. I would add that the number or percent of post 9/11 Veteran commissioners will logically continue to rise in the coming years.

In our county we have seen over 4,000 applications for financial assistance this year and almost 1,000 requests for assistance filing claims for Veterans seeking VA benefits. We reach out to Veterans through many types of marketing initiatives to include social media, television, radio, speaking engagements, and through our various governmental and non-governmental partners. We understand the evolving nature of the needs of our Veterans and believe that the current law, ORC 5901, has resulted in a fair representation of Veteran era commissioners.

Lastly, the appointment of commissioners by the Court of Common Pleas remains consistent and effective. We support the Court as they reach out to all the appropriate Veteran organizations for nominations; and we onboard each newly court appointed commissioner to our Agency. The process is nonbiased and as apolitical as possible, which is the right way to treat our Veterans.

We are very appreciative that this committee takes the time to review legislation that assists Veterans, especially those that are most in need. Thank you for taking the time to hear the thoughts of the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission and thank you for your continued service to our great state.

COL Buck Bramlish, USA, Retired  
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