

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 6/25/24

Name: Tim Hauser

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 8912 Oakbrook Circle

City: Twinsburg State: OH Zip: 44087

Best Contact Telephone: (330) 572-9087 Email: Tim_Hauser@veteransassurance.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): SB 225

Specific Issue: September 22 as Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position: Thank You Chair Loychik, Vice Chair Demetriou, Ranking Member Miller and members of the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee for this opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 225 which will designate September 22 as Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day. When I first discussed a possible bill on this issue with Senator Kristina Roegner I was not sure what the response would be not only by the Senator but by residents of Ohio. The positive response has been overwhelming. The only question I received was why September 22? September is National Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day and 22 is a symbolic number in the veteran community 22 veterans take their own lives daily. This day will be used to rally many organizations that provide services and resources for those veterans that are suicidal. It will bring communities together to educate each other on warning signs that a veteran may be suicidal and educate each other on the available resources to help their veteran. For years Ohio has been about the national average on veteran suicide. To be more precise Ohio

ranks third in the nation for most suicides committed by veterans. I challenge Ohio to lead the way and show this country that the number of veteran suicides can be reduced and hopefully eliminated. I thank you for your time and hope you consider this testimony and vote yes and this bill.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.