

Scott Palider, Legislative Coordinator

American Legion Department of Ohio

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 87

March 28th, 2023

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, I am Scott Palider, Legislative Coordinator for the American Legion Department of Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 87 today.

The American Legion is an organization dedicated to God and country, with a membership of military veterans who take deep pride in the U.S. Flag and all that it means.

Some back story for those who do not know, the American Legion was founded in 1919 on four pillars that still hold our organization up today: Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Children & Youth, and Americanism. I would like you all to focus on the last one, Americanism. The third line of the American Legion's preamble states, "to foster and perpetuate one hundred percent Americanism..."

I am here today because the American Legion Department of Ohio believes House Bill 87 does just that, perpetuates Americanism.

"Veterans Strengthening America"

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF



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By prohibiting the state and its political subdivisions from purchasing a US flag or Ohio flag that was not made in the United States this body would fall in line with the principles of Ohio's largest veterans service organization.

The issue of making sure the federal, state, and local governments only purchase made in the USA flags is one of the utmost importance to the American Legion. So much so that in 2016 at the American Legion National Convention held right here in the great state of Ohio, we passed Resolution 293, which urges all government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure that all American flags purchased for use by these agencies be American made.

Resolution 293 is still a legislative priority for the American Legion and that is why I and the 80,000+ military veterans in Ohio who call themselves members of the American Legion urge this Committee and General Assembly to support and pass House Bill 87.

Thank you for your time and please let me know if you have any questions.

Scott Palider
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