



OHIO LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Bob Peterson
Ohio House of Representatives, District 91
Vern Riffe Center for Government & the Arts
77 South High Street, Floor 11
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chair Peterson:

On behalf of the Community Associations Institute (CAI) and its Ohio Legislative Action Committee, I write today in support of House Bill 100 under the sponsorship of Representative Kevin Miller to amend the list of protected flags permitted for display by unit owners in condominium associations, neighborhood associations and manufactured home parks.

Over the history of the General Assembly's activity in this area, the legislature has sought to balance the interest of individual unit owners to display certain patriotic flags on and around their home with clear guidelines for associations to incorporate into the governance and management of their community. Section 5311.191 of Ohio Revised Code currently provides specific allowances for unit owners to display the United State flag, the Ohio state flag, the National League of POW/MIA Families flag and Military Service Star flags under certain circumstances of size and placement for each. These protections ensure that unit owners accept the responsibility to appropriately display these symbols within their community to honor those who serve and have served.

CAI would like to thank members of the House Government Oversight Committee for its thoughtful inclusion of similar guardrails as work continues on HB100 to add the "thin blue line" flag to this list of flags protected for display within community associations. In particular, we support the amendment offered by Representative Miller offering specific, descriptive language establishing a standard design for the "thin blue line" flag. This addition is consistent with specific descriptions of the Ohio state flag found in ORC Section 5.01 as well as language referring to patriotic customs set forth in 4 U.S.C. 5-10, and 36 U.S.C. 902 governing the display and use of the United States flag.

By clarifying what constitutes a standard, protected "thin blue line" flag among the many variations that can be found for purchase, association boards and residents will have a mutual understanding of how this symbol can faithfully recognize the service of law enforcement officers and their families.

I thank the membership of the House Government Oversight Committee for their consideration on HB100, and would respectfully request your support of this amendment to bring the addition of the "thin blue line" flag up to the standard of those already found in the list of flags protected for display under Ohio's real property law.

Thank you,

Robin L. Strohm

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Chair, Ohio LAC

Community Associations Institute