



Proponent Testimony of  
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Senate Bill 208  
Ohio House Primary & Secondary Education Committee  
November 20, 2024

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 208, a bill to require a military exception in a school district's open enrollment policy.

I'm David Cordonnier, Manager of Engagement for the Dayton Development Coalition, an economic development organization that seeks to attract, retain, and grow jobs in the 14-county Dayton region. Our responsibility includes supporting Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Springfield Air National Guard Base.

With more than 38,000 military, civilian, and contract workers, Wright-Patterson is the largest single-site employer in Ohio. Attracting and retaining jobs at the Base is critical not only to the Dayton region, but to the entire state. We assist in building the most welcoming environment for our military members and their families.

Among the thousands of military members in Ohio are families with children that deal with the reality of consistently moving throughout their career. These moves can place military families at a disadvantage and their children face changing school districts multiple times before their graduation. Senate Bill 208 will support these families by requiring an exception for them among school district's open enrollment policies. By creating this exception, we are allowing our

active-duty military parents to find the right place for their children to learn, grow and thrive while stationed in Ohio. The bill will protect school districts that do not have the space to accommodate the additional students.

Overall, Senate Bill 208 builds upon Ohio's military strategy. It is supported by the Department of Defense as a state policy priority. Enactment of the measure sends a signal to military decision makers that Ohio welcomes our military personnel and it encourages additional missions to be located here translating into jobs and federal investment in our state.

We thank Senator Roegner for sponsoring this important legislation and we thank the committee and Chair for your consideration. We urge adoption of the measure.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.