

May 9, 2023

Chairman, Ohio House of Representatives  
House Ways and Means Committee  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Merrin, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of the proposed change in HB126.

This change would correct ORC 718.01 (C) (1) by deleting the term 'Armed Forces' and replacing it with the term 'Uniformed Services'. The Armed Forces of the United States includes the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force. The term 'Uniformed Services' includes the six 'Armed Services' plus the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service (USPHS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ORC 718.01 (C) (1) provides a waiver of taxing military pay and allowances for members of the current Armed Forces living and working while stationed here in Ohio. This change would provide the same benefit to USPHS and NOAA personnel.

PHS and NOAA commissioned officers support the other military services. They are subject to deployments, many times alongside their counterparts in the Armed Services. They routinely respond to national emergencies. They were very active during the COVID 19 pandemic and most recently to the train derailment in East Palestine on February 3 of this year.

Thank you for your time. Your consideration of this proposal is appreciated.

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