

Veteran's View on Ohio House Bill 254

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide some testimony on Bill Number 254 "Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans".

My Name is James Crawford, and I'm on the Executive Committee with the Department of Ohio, Disabled American Veterans. I wish to enlighten the Group today what I have learned since I retired from Active Duty in March 2018. Prior to my retirement date, I had almost 26 years Active Duty time with about four of them years in Active Combat.

When I enlisted into the Military, I entered into a agreement with the United States Government for certain entitlements for twenty or more years service. But during my military service, I became broken, and worn down by what I was asked to do during that time frame.

And once I retired, I found a retirement check for alot less than I was getting during my service, but I also lost the extra entitlements for Family, Food, and other Hazardous Duties. Now to go along with that, I'm now paying for my "Free" Health Care, and finding alot of red tape on other worked for benefits. I'm traveling about a hour and a half for anything more than a Nurse Practitioner to do a rudimentary exam from the local Veteran Administration. I'm also not able to do alot of jobs from the effects of my military service, and thus losing out in finding extra income. But, I'm alive and for that I Thank God. But helping a Disable Veteran on their Property Tax will help them out greatly. And if its only so much due to your rating of 50% up to 100 %, it all counts up! Veterans are not looking for something we didn't earn, but since we were stripped of so many other things, It would be nice to help us out in this.

I also know that their was a statement that "some" people might "misuse" the VA Compensation Benefits and get up to 100% Disability Compensation, and I will say, Yes, its true, but the amount of "those" people compared to the Fraud with other people using other Government Benefits are not the same. But is it, because you think they are defrauding the system? Or is it because you think they didn't do anything to themselves or such? And I will tell you, that if you know a person is misusing VA Benefits, turn them in! But if a person is really Disabled and they get their Property Tax paid for and they make some some additional good money, Great, Good for them!

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I want to leave you all with a question to ponder... Of all the people who receive Benefits from the Government, did any one group not worked harder for them? Do they not deserve to get some relief on their Personal Property Tax?

Thank You all for listening to my statement.

Respectfully submitted

James Crawford

Disabled American Veterans

Department of Ohio