



AMVETS

Department of Ohio

Proponent Written Testimony for the
Ohio Senate General Government Committee

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H.B. No. 33 – Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025.

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora and the honorable members of the Ohio Senate General Government Committee. I am Don McCauley, a U.S. Army Veteran and Executive Director of the AMVETS Department of Ohio. I would like to thank the members of this committee for affording me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on the (VTO) Veteran's Organizations portion of House Bill 33.

The AMVETS Department of Ohio during the current biennium budget received appropriations of \$400,000.00 per annum and is currently forecasted for the next biennium budget to receive appropriations of \$450,000.00 per annum as proposed and passed by the Ohio House of Representatives, the increase in the house is appreciated. The AMVETS Department of Ohio uses funds from our state appropriation to fund our Department Service Officer program. The job our Department Service Officers perform assisting Ohio's veterans in obtaining their VA benefits is an integral part of the claims process. We currently staff Department Service Officers in 6 VA facilities in the State: Chillicothe VA Hospital, Cincinnati VA Hospital, Cleveland VA Hospital, Columbus VA Ambulatory Center, Dayton VA Hospital, and the Wright Patterson Air Force Base. In addition, AMVETS has two National Service Officers in the Federal Building in Cleveland.

According to statistics from the Veterans Administration, Ohio veterans and their families received over 3 billion dollars in VA compensation and pensions for fiscal year 2021 thanks to the efforts of the Veteran Service Organizations and the County Veterans Service Commissions. Ohio currently appropriates approximately 2.4 million into the (VTO) Veterans Organizations annual appropriation. This is a return on Ohio's investment of more than 1000 to 1 of income put into the States economy by veterans and their families thanks to those efforts.

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora and the other honorable members of the Ohio Senate General Government Committee, I once again thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 33. At this time, I will entertain questions that any member of this committee might have.