



Proponent Testimony of  
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Senate Bill No. 154  
to Include Space Force in the Definition of Armed Forces in the Ohio Revised Code

Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee  
January 24, 2024

Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and Members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony in support of SB 154, a bill to include Space Force in the definition of Armed Forces in the Ohio Revised Code.

I'm Jeff Hoagland, president and CEO of 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 35,000 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.

The Revised Code contains numerous provisions that affect members of the Armed Forces, including the Veteran-Friendly Business Procurement Program, military service credit under the State Teachers Retirement System, and Armed Services absent voter's ballots, just to name a few. Many of these provisions define "armed forces" to determine eligibility or applicability.

With the enactment of Public Law 116-92 in 2019, Congress created the U.S. Space Force as the sixth military service branch of the Department of Defense. However, the Revised Code does not

specifically name Space Force. The Revised Code needs to be updated to reflect the creation of our newest branch of the Armed Forces.

SB 154 amends the definitions of the U.S. Armed Forces, Armed Services, and Uniformed Services throughout the Revised Code to include Space Force. This change will align the Revised Code with Title 10 of the United States Code, which is the title that covers Armed Forces

This is more than just an administrative change. The update is necessary to minimize disruptions in benefits and services for eligible service members. It is supported by the Department of Defense as a state policy priority.

The Space Force is important to Ohio and Wright-Patterson. Wright-Patterson is home to the National Space Intelligence Center, the Space Force's service intelligence center. Another Space Force unit at Wright-Patterson is the 76th Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Squadron which delivers threat warnings in the space domain. These organizations are expected grow and I anticipate an increased Space Force presence at Wright-Patterson, Springfield Air National Guard Base, and around the state.

Updating the Ohio Code is a way of putting out a "welcome" sign to the Space Force and its personnel and missions. It supports current Space Force members and encourages the Space Force to continue growth here in Ohio. Passage of SB 154 is important for Ohio to remain in top consideration for future Space Force jobs and missions.

I commend Senator Roegner for her leadership on this and many other issues important to the military members serving in Ohio.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify today.