



# OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## *BEFORE THE SENATE VETERANS AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8*

Good afternoon, Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and Members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 8. My name is Justin Barnes, and I am the Director of Workforce, Small Business, and Technology Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

As you may know, for 130 years, the Ohio Chamber has served as the state's leading business advocate, and we represent over 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. As part of our mission, we seek to make Ohio the best place in the country for businesses to operate and grow.

House Concurrent Resolution 8, introduced by Representatives Patton and Lampton, urges the federal government to select Ohio as the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Force. While the Space Force is currently maintained in Colorado on a temporary basis, the Department of Defense has yet to announce a permanent location for the unified combatant command for military space operations.

It should come as no surprise that Ohio is a natural destination for the US Space Force headquarters. Between Ohio's rich history in the development of aviation and exploration, including pioneering astronauts such as Neil Armstrong and John Glenn, its aviation expertise located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and its strategic space research initiatives including the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group at Springfield Air National Guard Base, and NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, the Buckeye State is primed to amplify and maximize the operational excellence of the Space Force.

In addition to the uniformed and civilian aviation and space operations expertise in Ohio, our state also can serve as fertile ground for supporting those assigned to service at US Space Force headquarters, as well as their families. Ohio's economic momentum, lower cost of doing business, and strong community focus provide ample opportunities to ensure those assigned to USSF HQ find what they are looking for both on-base and off-base.

We want to thank Representatives Patton and Lampton for bringing this legislation forward, and encourage you to swiftly consider adoption of HCR 8. We are proud to join the members of the Ohio General Assembly in urging Congress to select Ohio as the permanent location of the headquarters of the United State Space Force. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.