

# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



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## Education Committee Testimony

Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson and remaining committee members good morning. I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf House Concurrent Resolution. 7, a resolution to support the hard work of the American Legion Buckeye Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State.

I am Christie White the Buckeye Boys State Coordinator for the American Legion Department of Ohio. In my 16 years working for the American Legion Department of Ohio I have witnessed a Boys State program from start to finish each year and for the last 8 years I have been tasked with overseeing and planning this curriculum so that each of the 1,200 young men who attend each year are able to leave with not only an expanded knowledge base on non-partisan government operations but leadership traits and life skills that can be given back to society for years to come.

Since its inception in 1936 Buckeye Boys State has evolved into a group educational and leadership academy containing students from over 600 schools across the great state of Ohio and with support from Legionnaires, past Boys State delegates, State Representatives and other state agencies to include the Ohio State Highway Patrol. With this support we are able to ensure each student can get a comprehensive understanding of not only the fundamental principles of running for election, voting, legislative sessions, and debating. They are also afforded the opportunity to practice these teachings and coupled with a strong emphasis on leadership traits these young men effectively run mock governments with positions ranging from state governor down to a city council member.

I respectfully ask that the committee vote in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 7.

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of H.C.R. 7 today, I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.