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Kevin D. Miller
State Representative

TO: House Government Oversight Committee

FROM: State Representatives Kevin Miller, Sean Brennan

DATE: February 25th, 2025

RE: HB75 Sponsor Testimony

Good Afternoon, Chairman Hall, Vice-Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey and members of the House Government oversight Committee, thank you for allowing us to present sponsor testimony for House Bill 75, the Chief Steven “Eric” DiSario Act.

This legislation will prohibit manufactured home park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of the “Thin Blue Line Flag.” In essence, the bill adds this flag to a list of other protected flags including the American Flag, State of Ohio Flag, the POW/MIA flag and other military flags. The “Thin Blue Line Flag” is used by law enforcement to commemorate fallen law enforcement officers, to show support for living law enforcement officers, and to symbolize the relationship of law enforcement with the community as protectors of the citizenry. For police officers, it represents that they are a part of something bigger than themselves, a special call to duty. For many civilians, it says they are willing to stand with those who sacrifice daily to maintain law and order and whose vocation is dedicated to protecting others and upholding the law.

This issue was brought to me by a constituent of mine by the name of Thomas DiSario. His heartbreaking story exemplifies just why this piece of legislation is needed. Tragically, in 2017, Mr. DiSario lost his son, Chief Steven “Eric” DiSario who was the Chief of Police for the Village of Kirkersville located in Licking County. Chief DiSario was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty responding to an incident involving an armed suspect in Kirkersville. Like far too many law enforcement officers, Chief DiSario lost his life responding to a call of service, and he will forever be remembered as a hero to his community and to those he served. Chief DiSario’s father was given a Thin Blue Line Flag at his son’s funeral which he faithfully flew in his yard for over 4 years. That is until he received a letter from his homeowner’s association demanding the flag be taken down. The association deemed the display of the flag as a “political statement”

which was prohibited by the by-laws and was therefore required to be removed. Mr. DiSario will tell you it represents the legacy of his son, and the ultimate sacrifice that he made while serving his community. It means the world to him.

This legislation is not a new idea. It was HB100 in the 135th General Assembly, which passed in the House 65-28. In the 132nd General Assembly, it was House Bill 712. The bill passed in House 90-2. I'm grateful to have always had bipartisan support for this bill, and to have Representative Brennan as a joint sponsor.

We urge you to join us in support of the brave men and women of law enforcement who answer the call of duty each and every day, and those like Chief DiSario who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their communities. Supporting those who protect and serve of us is a bipartisan issue and We hope you will join us by voting yes on HB75.

Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 75 and we would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K D Miller", written in a cursive style.

Representative Kevin D. Miller
Ohio House District 69