



**Representative Ty Mathews**  
House District 83

Veterans & Military Development Committee, Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 292  
June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairman Richardson, Ranking Member Hall, and members of the Veterans & Military Development Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 292.

This bill establishes the Ohio Defense Commission, a strategic initiative to strengthen Ohio's position in national defense by coordinating military, industrial, and economic efforts statewide. As defense innovation becomes increasingly vital to national security and economic growth, Ohio must be positioned to compete.

House Bill 292 would:

- Create a 13-member commission, including legislators and regional representatives, to guide defense-related strategy and investment.
- Define seven regions—based on existing JobsOhio boundaries—to ensure equitable representation across the state.
- Establish the Ohio Defense Fund, financed through state appropriations, federal and private funds, and interest from State of Israel bonds.

This is a proactive, bipartisan measure to support military readiness, veterans, and economic development—while ensuring Ohio is well-positioned for future federal defense initiatives.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions.