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80th House District
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State Representative Johnathan Newman

Chairwoman Richardson, Vicechair Mathews, Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and members of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today in support of H.B. 297, to increase funding to veterans organizations for Memorial Day event expenses.

This is a simple bill that seeks to change only two words in the O.R.C. – change "five hundred" to "one thousand." Ohio's county commissioners appropriate funds to veterans organizations in the amount of $500 dollars annually to those requesting it to fund Memorial Day events. Such organizations include the VFW – Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, AMVets – American Veterans, DAV-Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of the Vietnam War. In counties across Ohio these funds assist organizations to do things such as buy American flags, rent a venue, hire a band or a speaker.

In light of the importance of Memorial Day to our veterans, their families, and our nation; and in light of the impact of inflation, we think it is a good idea to increase this amount to $1,000.

Thank you, Chairwoman Richardson, Vicechair Mathews, Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and members of the Committee for hearing my testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Johnathan Newman

State Representative Johnathan Newman
House District 80