



**Written Testimony Provided by
Mr. Jeff Hoagland, President and CEO, Dayton Development Coalition
on House Bill 95
Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Proponent Testimony – May 6, 2025**

Chair Young, Vice-Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present written proponent testimony on House Bill 95, supporting the Ohio Veterans Educational Council (OVEC).

The Dayton Development Coalition is a regional economic development organization whose mission is to support job creation and opportunity for the citizens of the Dayton Region. In addition, the Dayton Development Coalition works closely with aerospace and defense partners to promote Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Springfield Air National Guard Base.

We commend Representatives Andrea White and Brian Stewart for sponsoring this important legislation. OVEC was established to assist veterans with higher educational opportunities in Ohio. In our region, many public and private higher education institutions are members including Wright State University, University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College, Clark State Community College, and Central State University. With more than 20,000 veteran students taking advantage of VA benefits in Ohio, these institutions are taking seriously the job of assisting veterans with effectively transitioning to civilian life and the workforce.

House Bill 95 would support military-student leaders, create a more military-inclusive environment on campuses, identify best practices for veteran student services, and connect campus Military and Veterans Offices to development support through the National Veterans Leadership Foundation. These efforts will continue to advance Ohio's position as the most military friendly state. Recently, JobsOhio published their 2025 Military & Federal Factbook. Our Western region has approximately 120,000 military & federal jobs, which is roughly 14% of the total economy. Programs like OVEC and the enthusiastic support for it from our local higher education institutions keeps growing our workforce pipeline in the region to fill the demand, especially in the aerospace and defense industry.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 95. We urge your support.