



Hearcel F. Craig

State Senator

15th District

Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 39

Ohio Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee

February 12th, 2024

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Ohio Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify about Senate Bill 39. I am proud to bring this important legislation forward with my joint-sponsor, Senator Johnson.

It is critical that our state government take action and assist Ohio Veterans in obtaining the benefits they deserve. This legislation would mandate the creation and display of veteran benefits and services posters in workplaces. These posters would provide our veterans with information they may not have known beforehand about some of the vital and life-changing support available to them.

These posters would include a multitude of information such as: benefits information from the Department of Veteran Services, The United States Department of Veteran Affairs' Crisis Line, substance abuse and mental health resources, educational and workforce training opportunities for veterans, tax exemptions or benefits for veterans, and other key resources veterans rely on every day for support.

All veterans in Ohio made the unwavering decision to serve our country in unprecedented and unpredictable circumstances. We must be equally committed to seeing that they receive these benefits which are crucial to their growth and prosperity after completing their period of service. Encouraging workplaces to acquire and prominently display the informational posters enables businesses to show their support for their veteran employees and ensures that all veterans know what benefits they qualify for, and that help is there for them whenever they need it.

Veteran benefits posters will be an important step in providing for the physical and mental well-being of veterans and supporting their future economic success.

Thank you, Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, and Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Ohio Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify. I humbly urge this committee to move swiftly in order to assist our veterans in obtaining the benefits and services they deserve.