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**Committees and Special Appointments:**  
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**Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee  
Senate Resolution 22 — Sponsor Testimony  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025**

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Resolution 22.

This resolution urges the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Congress to take prompt action to reduce processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims. This is an issue that was brought to my attention by one of my constituents, who is a veteran.

According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), the average time for the VA to complete disability-related claims in November of 2024 was 139.3 days. It has since increased to 146.4 days in January of 2025.

The VA describes processing time for claims over 125 days as "backlog". Additionally, the number of backlogged claims was at 254,679 claims as of December of 2024.

It is simply unacceptable to take over four months to process a veteran's disability-related claim, especially in cases where the claim is denied and sent to be appealed. Additionally, the time to process claims should be improving, not getting worse.

This resolution is a step in the process to send a message to the federal government that the Ohio General Assembly strongly encourages them to provide our nation's veterans full and fair consideration of their disability benefits claims in a timely and responsive manner.

Our veterans deserve answers from a more accountable and transparent Department of Veterans Affairs.

Thank you once again Chairman Johnson and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.