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80th House District
Miami County
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State Representative Johnathan Newman

Chairman Johnson, Vicechair Wison, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee, thank you for hearing our testimony today in support of H.B. 297.

This is a very appropriate bill to consider now in the year of our nation's 250th birthday. The bill seeks to increase funding to veterans and civic organizations to pay for Memorial Day expenses. This idea came to us from a Vietnam era U.S. Navy veteran, David Root, who now serves as the State Legislative Chairman for the Department of Ohio VFW. The O.R.C. states that each county's "board of county commissioners, annually, shall appropriate" funds to requesting organizations for Memorial Day expenses. Mr. Root noted that in light of inflation it would be a good idea to increase these funds.

The change is simple. For veterans organizations requesting the funds, increase the limit from five hundred to one thousand dollars. Such organizations include the VFW – Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, AMVets – American Veterans, DAV-Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of the Vietnam War, etc. And for non-veteran, civic organizations, increase the limit from one hundred to two hundred dollars.

These funds are used by organizations to do things such as buy American flags to be placed in cemeteries, rent event venues, hire a band or a speaker for events. Members of the House voted unanimously in committee and on the floor passing this because we think it is a great way to honor our veterans and we hope you will think so as well.

Chairman Johnson, Vicechair Wison, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee, thank you for hearing our testimony today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnathan Newman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Johnathan Newman
House District 80