



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Ohio  
Veteran & Military Support  
Student Veteran Liaison

May 1, 2017

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Ohio Student Veteran Liaison supports Representative Bocchieri's Students to Soldiers Support Act (HB 47). If a member of our Armed Forces is attending school, they should be given every opportunity to succeed and be able to interact as much as possible as any other student. Military members have an obligation to their service first. The largest majority of these students, they are paying for college using some form of Government benefit. Why should they not be able to participate in an extracurricular activity because they have a commitment to the military? The school should be supporting this individual as much as possible and should be ensuring that he or she feels included and as much a part of the program as anyone else. They should also be encouraging the military students for juggling so many extra responsibilities.

If you ask me, an individual serving in the military and going to school has a true sense of commitment. Not only is that person juggling their career, they are bettering themselves to move forward in the military and also preparing for when they leave the Service and are in the civilian sector. As an employer, it would be so beneficial to hire an employee who has been able to juggle his or her military service, college academics, extracurricular activities, responsibilities at home, and a healthy social life. When you think about those character traits, it shows a true passion for making life decisions that will not only benefit the individual, but will benefit anyone or anything they are associated in doing.

I would think a school of higher education would definitely want to encourage that military member to participate in any extracurricular activities so they do not feel that they couldn't do something because of their military service. Most of the schools in Ohio are really supporting the Student Veterans, I feel they should remember there are several going to the college or university who are still wearing the uniform today and need that same attention. They have unique needs and that should be recognized and accommodations should be made for the military member.

Please consider supporting Representative Bocchieri's Students to Soldiers Support Act (HB 47). This truly will enhance the Citizen Soldier's college experience.

Respectfully,

KARI E. PFEFIER  
VFW Department of Ohio  
Veteran & Military Support  
Student Veteran Liaison