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Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 77
House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee
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Chairman Perales, Vice Chair Hood, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee - thank you for allowing us the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony for Senate Bill 77.

Senate Bill 77 would designate June 12th as “Women Veterans’ Day.” On June 12, 1948, President Harry S Truman signed into law the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, allowing women to serve as permanent members of the U.S. Armed Forces. As a result of President Truman’s historic action, the number of female Service Members has continued to grow annually across all branches.

As of 2017, 15% of all active-duty personnel were women, according to studies done through Pew Research. In 2015, 17 % of active-duty officers were female, representing an 11% increase since 1990. Women comprise 19% of active-duty personnel in the Air Force, 8% of the Marine Corps, 18% of the Navy and 14% of the Army. Throughout my career, I have personally had the honor and privilege to work alongside female service members and veterans for nearly three decades.

In commemoration of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, we believe this bill and day designation will serve as a great opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of women veterans across the State of Ohio. Again, I’d like to thank you for the opportunity to testify and we would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.