



**Representative Joe Miller
House District 56**

**House Bill 581 Sponsor Testimony
May 11, 2022**

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Loychik, Ranking Member Miller and members of the House Armed Services and Veteran's Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 581. House Bill 581 allows for Veteran Service Commissions to use their county-issued credit card when temporary and necessary assistance is needed. This is a companion bill to SB 287 sponsored by Senator Manning and the bill has currently had 2 hearings. This bill idea was brought to me by the Lorain County Veterans Commission and I believe it solves a problem that is happening across the state. Current law only allows county agencies to use county-issued credit cards for travel, vehicle maintenance, food, phone, and internet expenses. Although there is an exception for agency credit card use when it comes to child assistance, we believe that these exceptions should go further to make life easier for Veteran Service Commissions in times of distress.

Emergencies happen and VSC's need to act fast for the betterment of their clients (veterans). If there were to ever be an instance where a Vet was dealing with an emergency circumstance and needed items and/or assistance from the Veterans Commission, the commission could utilize a credit card for immediate assistance. During a hearing in the Senate for this bill there was an example given where a veteran was sleeping in his car until his apartment rental was ready and this is a situation that we are trying to avoid further.

This legislation expands these exceptions and gives some sense of relief to those who are working to help our veterans every day. Simply put, this legislation gives our commissions across the state a temporary fix while we continue to work toward solving root problems for our veterans. Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Loychik, Ranking Member Miller and members of the

[Type here]

House Armed Services and Veteran's Affairs Committee, thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony and my joint-sponsor and I would be happy to answer any questions.