



# AMVETS

## Department of Ohio

### Proponent Written Testimony for the Ohio Senate General Government Budget Committee

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

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H.B. No. 110 – 2022/2023 Operating Budget,  
Section 414.10 VTO VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS page 2459, Line number 74493

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Wilson, Ranking Member Craig and members of the General Government Budget Committee, I am Don McCauley, Executive Director for The AMVETS Department of Ohio. As previously indicated in the joint testimony we appreciate that Governor DeWine, in his proposed 2022/2023 Biennial Operating Budget, recognized and recommended that we be reinstated to the approved amount from the 2020/2021 Biennial Operating Budget.

However, as previously indicated during the 2021 budget, we had our appropriation reduced by 20%. The appropriation AMVETS receives annually goes towards paying the expenses and salaries of our Department Service Officers located across the state in the VA hospitals, when our appropriation was reduced by 20%, we thought we would have to reduce our DSO staff after we just expanded the program because of the gracious increase the legislation gave us in 2020. Fortunately, we did not have lay off any of our staff and managed to continue assisting veterans with their claims though the pandemic. While we would like to see a 4% increase over the next two years in of our appropriations as a cost-of-living increases for our service officers, at minimum I think we would appreciate if the 20% that was put on hold and retained by the state in 2021 be released back to us either all at once or split in half and added to the 2022 & 2023 appropriations.

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Wilson, Ranking member Craig and members of this committee this concludes my testimony, I thank each of you for your time today and will entertain any questions you might have at this time.