

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

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Don McCauley
Executive Director
American Veterans (AMVETS) Department of Ohio
(614) 431-6990 Ext. 101
dmccauley@ohamvets.org

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. This testimony today is on behalf of a Coalition of Veterans Service Organizations making up the majority of the 13 Veteran Service Organizations in the VTO Budget including The American Legion Department of Ohio, American Veterans Department of Ohio, Disabled American Veterans Department of Ohio (DAV), the Department of Ohio Marine Corp League (MCL), Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Ohio (MOP), The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Ohio (VFW) and the Vietnam Veterans of America Buckeye State Council (VVA).

While individually and collectively we all appreciate that Governor DeWine, in his proposed 2022/2023 Biennial Operating Budget, recognized and recommended that the 13 State Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) that currently receive State appropriations be reinstated to the approved amount from the 2020/2021 Biennial Operating Budget. However, as some of you know during the 2021 budget all 13 of the VSOs had their appropriation reduces by 20% along with all the state agencies, this reduction affected each of us in some manner. While we would all like to see a 4% increase over the next two years in each of our appropriations, I think we would all appreciate if the 20% that was put on hold and retained by the state in 2021 be released back to each of us.

I wanted to make sure this committee realizes that each of our Department Veteran Service Officers (DSO), coupled with our National Veteran Service Officers (NSO), those at the County Veterans Service Commissions (CVSO), and Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) personnel at the Cleveland VA Regional Office have helped Ohio's Veterans file claims and other documents that helped bring in 2.7 billion dollars in VA Compensation & Pension benefits for Veterans in Ohio in 2019 (see attached data).

In conclusion, it is clear from the data provided that this 2.1-million-dollar investment made by the state in our veterans' service organizations returns approximately 1285%. I wish I could get that kind of return on my 401K.

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.

FY19 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDY)

FY19 Summary of Expenditures by State										
Expenditures in \$000s										
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
ADAMS	1,748	\$ 21,502	\$ 10,007	\$ -	\$ 549	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 338	\$ 10,607	707
ALLEN	6,676	\$ 48,507	\$ 26,218	\$ -	\$ 2,377	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 305	\$ 19,607	1,905
ASHLAND	3,725	\$ 28,562	\$ 13,537	\$ -	\$ 1,873	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 198	\$ 12,953	1,379
ASHTABULA	7,693	\$ 71,182	\$ 32,510	\$ -	\$ 1,942	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 323	\$ 36,406	3,015
ATHENS	3,171	\$ 38,367	\$ 19,204	\$ -	\$ 2,527	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 203	\$ 16,433	1,273
AUGLAIZE	2,999	\$ 17,177	\$ 9,247	\$ -	\$ 711	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 132	\$ 7,086	840
BELMONT	4,931	\$ 33,609	\$ 17,400	\$ -	\$ 796	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 223	\$ 15,190	1,783
BROWN	3,309	\$ 32,226	\$ 12,631	\$ -	\$ 717	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79	\$ 18,798	1,319
BUTLER	22,449	\$ 172,989	\$ 78,888	\$ -	\$ 9,838	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,415	\$ 82,847	6,367
CARROLL	2,230	\$ 12,556	\$ 5,903	\$ -	\$ 419	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46	\$ 6,189	745
CHAMPAIGN	2,952	\$ 18,566	\$ 9,263	\$ -	\$ 596	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37	\$ 8,671	719
CLARK	12,538	\$ 85,830	\$ 44,549	\$ -	\$ 3,701	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 990	\$ 36,589	3,205
CLERMONT	14,038	\$ 110,964	\$ 50,452	\$ -	\$ 5,763	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 565	\$ 54,185	4,452
CLINTON	3,113	\$ 28,195	\$ 15,007	\$ -	\$ 1,184	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 11,855	965
COLUMBIANA	8,283	\$ 61,219	\$ 30,702	\$ -	\$ 2,096	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 196	\$ 28,224	3,033
COSHOCTON	2,525	\$ 18,085	\$ 9,194	\$ -	\$ 405	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 154	\$ 8,331	919
CRAWFORD	3,353	\$ 23,308	\$ 11,849	\$ -	\$ 831	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 157	\$ 10,472	1,104
CUYAHOGA	64,575	\$ 3,992,858	\$ 263,814	\$ 8,651	\$ 26,547	\$ -	\$ 3,234,709	\$ 5,871	\$ 453,266	24,311
DARKE	3,379	\$ 22,903	\$ 11,233	\$ -	\$ 678	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 98	\$ 10,894	950
DEFIANCE	2,522	\$ 20,510	\$ 11,511	\$ -	\$ 989	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 218	\$ 7,792	831
DELAWARE	9,753	\$ 59,576	\$ 29,403	\$ -	\$ 5,223	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,028	\$ 23,923	2,255
ERIE	5,895	\$ 48,699	\$ 25,788	\$ -	\$ 1,359	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 557	\$ 20,995	2,233
FAIRFIELD	10,817	\$ 90,937	\$ 40,191	\$ -	\$ 4,586	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 594	\$ 45,566	3,806
FAYETTE	2,024	\$ 19,375	\$ 7,655	\$ -	\$ 588	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 106	\$ 11,026	684
FRANKLIN	65,016	\$ 509,175	\$ 218,734	\$ 7,137	\$ 38,307	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,113	\$ 239,884	19,786
FULTON	2,587	\$ 17,512	\$ 9,774	\$ -	\$ 1,125	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ 6,488	820
GALLIA	2,146	\$ 24,665	\$ 11,690	\$ -	\$ 586	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32	\$ 12,356	810
GEAUGA	4,701	\$ 34,159	\$ 16,882	\$ -	\$ 1,498	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 796	\$ 14,984	1,554
GREENE	16,633	\$ 154,223	\$ 89,469	\$ -	\$ 17,301	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,211	\$ 46,243	3,900
GUERNSEY	2,937	\$ 31,985	\$ 15,179	\$ -	\$ 999	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 183	\$ 15,625	1,293
HAMILTON	40,579	\$ 394,802	\$ 133,779	\$ 491	\$ 18,002	\$ -	\$ 1,622	\$ 4,735	\$ 236,173	13,210
HANCOCK	4,976	\$ 24,041	\$ 12,370	\$ -	\$ 1,703	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 342	\$ 9,625	1,302
HARDIN	1,977	\$ 15,111	\$ 8,157	\$ -	\$ 551	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 274	\$ 6,130	554
HARRISON	1,240	\$ 9,251	\$ 4,367	\$ -	\$ 297	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94	\$ 4,493	456
HENRY	1,881	\$ 8,612	\$ 4,829	\$ -	\$ 404	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 93	\$ 3,287	455
HIGHLAND	3,194	\$ 35,020	\$ 13,626	\$ -	\$ 939	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 93	\$ 20,362	1,227
HOCKING	2,161	\$ 20,098	\$ 9,233	\$ -	\$ 520	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 92	\$ 10,253	808
HOLMES	1,326	\$ 17,740	\$ 3,853	\$ -	\$ 155	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71	\$ 13,661	429
HURON	3,933	\$ 31,678	\$ 17,484	\$ -	\$ 1,336	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 133	\$ 12,726	1,292

FY19 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

FY19 Summary of Expenditures by State										
Expenditures in \$000s										
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
JACKSON	2,330	\$ 34,128	\$ 13,123	\$ -	\$ 703	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 183	\$ 20,119	1,022
JEFFERSON	5,040	\$ 38,032	\$ 20,159	\$ -	\$ 1,494	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 16,080	1,710
KNOX	4,268	\$ 26,057	\$ 13,233	\$ -	\$ 1,345	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 185	\$ 11,294	1,234
LAKE	15,034	\$ 127,966	\$ 57,383	\$ -	\$ 5,060	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,491	\$ 64,032	5,492
LAWRENCE	4,459	\$ 68,858	\$ 27,687	\$ -	\$ 1,351	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 323	\$ 39,498	2,059
LICKING	13,075	\$ 99,513	\$ 47,078	\$ -	\$ 4,730	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 812	\$ 46,893	4,624
LOGAN	3,249	\$ 22,843	\$ 11,714	\$ -	\$ 1,114	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34	\$ 9,980	825
LORAIN	21,914	\$ 150,934	\$ 68,327	\$ -	\$ 7,536	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,206	\$ 73,865	7,202
LUCAS	24,048	\$ 144,961	\$ 70,928	\$ -	\$ 9,677	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,465	\$ 62,891	7,022
MADISON	2,670	\$ 19,969	\$ 10,422	\$ -	\$ 1,121	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83	\$ 8,343	695
MAHONING	15,682	\$ 122,255	\$ 60,087	\$ -	\$ 5,171	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,273	\$ 55,724	5,866
MARION	4,451	\$ 30,975	\$ 15,685	\$ -	\$ 1,133	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 142	\$ 14,015	1,418
MEDINA	11,622	\$ 75,194	\$ 39,217	\$ -	\$ 4,745	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 781	\$ 30,451	3,134
MEIGS	1,712	\$ 15,515	\$ 7,366	\$ -	\$ 421	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58	\$ 7,669	637
MERCER	2,338	\$ 15,698	\$ 8,667	\$ -	\$ 719	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86	\$ 6,226	706
MIAMI	8,019	\$ 59,926	\$ 31,364	\$ -	\$ 3,194	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 304	\$ 25,064	2,056
MONROE	1,127	\$ 7,627	\$ 4,181	\$ -	\$ 212	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5	\$ 3,229	422
MONTGOMERY	40,485	\$ 442,298	\$ 185,244	\$ 1,186	\$ 22,337	\$ -	\$ 3,641	\$ 2,164	\$ 227,726	12,951
MORGAN	1,162	\$ 9,518	\$ 5,845	\$ -	\$ 184	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22	\$ 3,467	450
MORROW	2,573	\$ 17,488	\$ 6,756	\$ -	\$ 769	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91	\$ 9,873	894
MUSKINGUM	6,199	\$ 47,595	\$ 23,884	\$ -	\$ 1,885	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 315	\$ 21,511	2,140
NOBLE	934	\$ 7,489	\$ 3,222	\$ -	\$ 69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57	\$ 4,141	367
OTTAWA	3,248	\$ 25,796	\$ 14,103	\$ -	\$ 802	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 226	\$ 10,665	1,099
PAULDING	1,346	\$ 9,399	\$ 4,055	\$ -	\$ 205	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17	\$ 5,122	367
PERRY	2,546	\$ 20,698	\$ 10,664	\$ -	\$ 731	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 102	\$ 9,201	803
PICKAWAY	3,971	\$ 41,386	\$ 18,104	\$ -	\$ 1,627	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 106	\$ 21,550	1,482
PIKE	1,890	\$ 29,008	\$ 11,670	\$ -	\$ 550	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 199	\$ 16,588	873
PORTAGE	10,017	\$ 86,014	\$ 37,852	\$ -	\$ 5,093	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 333	\$ 42,737	3,437
PREBLE	2,967	\$ 24,635	\$ 12,292	\$ -	\$ 674	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 126	\$ 11,544	920
PUTNAM	1,644	\$ 9,274	\$ 5,126	\$ -	\$ 417	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52	\$ 3,679	428
RICHLAND	9,062	\$ 71,829	\$ 31,722	\$ -	\$ 2,740	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 860	\$ 36,508	3,895
ROSS	5,858	\$ 125,623	\$ 31,055	\$ 6,331	\$ 1,793	\$ -	\$ 2,034	\$ 173	\$ 84,237	2,875
SANDUSKY	4,065	\$ 22,942	\$ 12,003	\$ -	\$ 1,018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 208	\$ 9,713	1,324
SCIOTO	5,388	\$ 60,896	\$ 28,092	\$ -	\$ 1,519	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 269	\$ 31,016	2,195
SENECA	3,640	\$ 21,490	\$ 12,429	\$ -	\$ 1,263	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107	\$ 7,691	1,146
SHELBY	3,044	\$ 21,459	\$ 9,574	\$ -	\$ 1,035	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180	\$ 10,670	812
STARK	24,417	\$ 186,166	\$ 94,441	\$ -	\$ 8,629	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,755	\$ 81,341	8,589
SUMMIT	32,224	\$ 233,466	\$ 105,639	\$ -	\$ 10,632	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,640	\$ 114,555	10,717
TRUMBULL	16,360	\$ 125,368	\$ 59,413	\$ -	\$ 3,624	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 856	\$ 61,474	5,862

FY19 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDY)

FY19 Summary of Expenditures by State										
Expenditures in \$000s										
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
TUSCARAWAS	6,171	\$ 55,568	\$ 28,154	\$ -	\$ 1,628	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 448	\$ 25,338	2,637
UNION	3,090	\$ 19,535	\$ 9,498	\$ -	\$ 1,277	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71	\$ 8,689	900
VAN WERT	1,846	\$ 11,617	\$ 5,522	\$ -	\$ 398	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134	\$ 5,562	567
VINTON	887	\$ 13,052	\$ 5,113	\$ -	\$ 156	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23	\$ 7,760	459
WARREN	14,300	\$ 96,698	\$ 45,980	\$ -	\$ 6,517	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,055	\$ 43,145	3,527
WASHINGTON	4,894	\$ 41,110	\$ 22,854	\$ -	\$ 1,367	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 294	\$ 16,594	1,744
WAYNE	6,535	\$ 49,060	\$ 22,626	\$ 1,730	\$ 1,901	\$ -	\$ 2,440	\$ 376	\$ 19,988	2,030
WILLIAMS	2,456	\$ 17,745	\$ 9,562	\$ -	\$ 540	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 284	\$ 7,360	818
WOOD	7,379	\$ 39,997	\$ 20,682	\$ -	\$ 4,562	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 589	\$ 14,164	1,874
WYANDOT	1,461	\$ 8,987	\$ 4,427	\$ -	\$ 145	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85	\$ 4,329	387
OHIO (Totals)	733,082	\$ 9,459,429	\$ 2,759,809	\$ 25,526	\$ 295,830	\$ -	\$ 3,244,447	\$ 50,315	\$ 3,083,503	241,389
CONG. DIST (01)	40,294	\$ 362,957	\$ 131,677	\$ 552	\$ 18,049	\$ -	\$ 1,622	\$ 4,088	\$ 206,969	12,330
CONG. DIST (02)	44,894	\$ 449,609	\$ 178,707	\$ 1	\$ 16,794	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,217	\$ 250,889	15,864
CONG. DIST (03)	39,924	\$ 337,286	\$ 134,317	\$ 189	\$ 23,523	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,140	\$ 176,117	13,724
CONG. DIST (04)	49,228	\$ 333,527	\$ 167,914	\$ 6,936	\$ 15,313	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,008	\$ 141,356	14,652
CONG. DIST (05)	44,634	\$ 268,023	\$ 141,838	\$ -	\$ 16,563	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,079	\$ 106,542	12,305
CONG. DIST (06)	52,116	\$ 471,693	\$ 226,938	\$ 36	\$ 13,917	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,638	\$ 228,164	19,811
CONG. DIST (07)	47,768	\$ 358,938	\$ 174,955	\$ -	\$ 16,035	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,094	\$ 164,854	16,779
CONG. DIST (08)	50,076	\$ 371,918	\$ 181,012	\$ 1,125	\$ 18,307	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,960	\$ 168,514	13,715
CONG. DIST (09)	41,228	\$ 343,068	\$ 149,736	\$ -	\$ 15,143	\$ -	\$ 345	\$ 3,108	\$ 174,737	14,271
CONG. DIST (10)	58,842	\$ 613,846	\$ 281,230	\$ 1,400	\$ 40,138	\$ -	\$ 3,641	\$ 3,465	\$ 283,972	17,441
CONG. DIST (11)	34,559	\$ 557,211	\$ 136,448	\$ 8,651	\$ 13,731	\$ -	\$ 70,713	\$ 3,089	\$ 324,580	15,063
CONG. DIST (12)	46,404	\$ 324,834	\$ 156,790	\$ 12	\$ 20,185	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,527	\$ 144,320	14,066
CONG. DIST (13)	48,174	\$ 377,305	\$ 173,467	\$ -	\$ 15,209	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,235	\$ 185,395	17,565
CONG. DIST (14)	43,791	\$ 3,511,482	\$ 166,579	\$ -	\$ 14,655	\$ -	\$ 3,159,696	\$ 3,824	\$ 166,728	14,626
CONG. DIST (15)	47,357	\$ 443,331	\$ 195,007	\$ 4,894	\$ 21,660	\$ -	\$ 2,034	\$ 2,565	\$ 217,171	15,563
CONG. DIST (16)	43,791	\$ 334,401	\$ 163,195	\$ 1,730	\$ 16,608	\$ -	\$ 6,396	\$ 3,276	\$ 143,195	13,614
OHIO (Totals)	733,082	\$ 9,459,429	\$ 2,759,809	\$ 25,526	\$ 295,830	\$ -	\$ 3,244,447	\$ 50,315	\$ 3,083,503	241,389

FY19 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDx)

FY19 Summary of Expenditures by State Expenditures in \$000s										
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
Notes:										
* Veteran population estimates, as of September 30, 2019, are produced by the VA Predictive Analytics and Actuary Service (VetPop 2016).										
# Prior to FY 08, "Loan Guaranty" expenditures were included in the Education & Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (E&VRE) programs. Currently, all "Loan Guaranty" expenditures are attributed to Travis County, TX, where all Loan Guaranty payments are processed. VA will continue to improve data collection for future GDx reports to better distribute loan expenditures at the state, county and congressional district levels.										
** Unique patients are patients who received treatment at a VA health care facility. Data are provided by the Allocation Resource Center (ARC).										
Expenditure data sources: USASpending.gov for Compensation & Pension (C&P) and Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (EVRE) Benefits; Veterans Benefits Administration Insurance Center for the Insurance costs; the VA Financial Management System (FMS) for Construction, Medical Research, General Operating Expenses, and certain C&P and Readjustment data; and the Allocation Resource Center (ARC) for Medical Care costs.										
1. Expenditures are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. For example, \$500 to \$1,000 are rounded to \$1; \$0 to \$499 are rounded to \$0; and "\$-" = 0 or no expenditures.										
2. The Compensation & Pension expenditures include dollars for the following programs: veterans' compensation for service-connected disabilities; dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected deaths; veterans' pension for nonservice-connected disabilities; and burial and other benefits to veterans and their survivors.										
3. Medical Care expenditures include dollars for medical services, medical administration, facility maintenance, educational support, research support, and other overhead items. Medical Care expenditures do not include dollars for construction or other non-medical support.										
4. Medical Care expenditures are allocated to the patient's home location, not the site of care.										