



Proponent Testimony on House Bill 244
Presented by David Burrows, Jr., Vice President of Engagement,
Dayton Development Coalition
Ohio Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee
Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Ohio Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of the Dayton Development Coalition in support of House Bill 244, which expands educational opportunities for the children of military personnel who receive orders to move to Ohio.

Today I am asking for your support of this legislation as it will help ease the transition for military families who move to Ohio by allowing local school districts to have students participate in both virtual school enrollments and advance enrollments as they prepare to move to a new military installation. Additionally, House Bill 244 waives the proof of residency requirements until ten days after the student begins attending classes, providing some breathing room for families who have many tasks to complete during a short timeframe when moving.

I would like to thank our region's state representatives, Rep Andrea White from Kettering and Rep Brian Lampton from Beavercreek for introducing this important legislation.

As a Vice President of the Dayton Development Coalition, I have the distinct pleasure of working with military personnel who serve in leadership positions at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Springfield Air National Guard Base. With more than 30,000 workers, Wright-Patterson is the largest single-site employer in Ohio. The Dayton Development Coalition works to attract and retain new missions and jobs at the Base. Supporting our military families and showcasing the excellent quality of life and educational opportunities we have here in Ohio can help us do that.

Our efforts are critical not only to the Dayton region, but to the entire state, as the economic impact of the Base has been estimated at \$15.5 billion annually.

Under current law, military families transferring to Ohio are not eligible to register their children for courses until they are physically located within school district boundaries. This creates ambiguity in the enrollment process and uncertainty in coursework expectations for these children, since most families know which school district they will be attending before they physically move. With passage of this bill, a school district's board of education would have the ability to permit a school-aged child to apply for enrollment in a school district in the same manner and at the same times as students residing in the school district. This is important because when military children move to a new school midterm as a result of their parents' service, they are often disadvantaged due to missed deadlines for course completion or registration. With this legislation, students would be able to start courses virtually to maintain continuity and avoid losing credits.

Passage of this bill, and other military quality of life bills that are currently pending in the Ohio General Assembly will help Ohio continue to build its reputation as a welcoming state for military families. The benefits go beyond just Ohio's reputation as "family friendly." Recently, the Air Force established a rating system to evaluate communities on friendliness to military families. One criterion involves educational opportunities for military children. The Air Force uses these ratings to determine where to locate new missions and jobs. So, Ohio's ability to retain and gain missions is heavily dependent on how we support military families. Keep in mind, the Department of Defense has made it very clear that it will use its leverage as a local economic driver to improve the family-friendly laws and regulations that affect its service members.

The Coalition appreciate the Ohio General Assembly's work in passing many other bills over the past few years to improve the quality of life in Ohio for military families. Collectively this effort is sending a message that Ohio is the best home for our military men and women and their families. Passage of House Bill 244 will continue that trend and help Ohio make the case that we are the best location for new defense missions. For this reason, I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you.