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SB 213 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
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Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 213, the "Ask the Question" bill.

Senate Bill 213 is a priority for the Department of Defense and will be the last bill needed to complete their 2021 Key Personnel and Readiness Issues Supporting Service Members and Families checklist. My district includes portions of Wright Patterson Air Force Base, a critical component of the region's economy and our nation's national security. Passing this bill will make us a leader across the nation in military friendliness, further supporting our troops and veterans, and signaling to the Department of Defense that Ohio values its service members.

This bill requires state agencies to "Ask the Question" about veteran status when someone interacts with a government agency. Ohio will then be able to better connect them to veteran resources. The bill also requires government agencies to inquire about active duty military status; then, those active duty military members will be informed of resources for active duty military, such as the benefits from the other bills on the checklist.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 213. I am happy to take any questions from the committee.