



**County
Commissioners
Association of Ohio**

Serving Ohio Counties Since 1880

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**TO: House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs &
Homeland Security Committee**

FROM: John R. Leutz, Esq., CCAO Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: House Bill 192 - Veterans Service Commission appointing authority

HB 192 would expand the pool of individuals who could be appointed to the 5th seat on the County Veterans Service Commission (CVSC) to include veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan theaters or a spouse of an active duty or veteran service member whose service began after September 11, 2001. We recognize the contributions that such an individual could make as a member of the CVSC.

CCAO has held a long standing concern with the appointing authority for the CVSC board members. We believe that the appointments to the CVSC Bboard should be made by the board of county commissioners. State law vests the appointment authority with the Common Pleas Court, yet the burden of funding the VSC budget falls upon the board of county commissioners. Commissioners are obligated, under law, to appropriate up to five-tenths of a mil per dollar on the assessed value of the property of the county to fund the CVSC, however, commissioners have no ability to review or revise the budget of the CVSC.

We believe that appointment by the commissioners, who are the county budgetary authority, of the CVSC board members, would provide better fiscal accountability and help ensure that tax payer dollars are being used effectively to deliver services to our veterans.

HB 192 provides an opportunity to address the appointing authority of the CVSC Board. CCAO asks that HB 192 be amended to designate the board of county commissioners as the appointing authority of the CVSC board members.



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