



# Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers

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**President Nichole Coleman**  
**Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers**  
**HB 192**  
**House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security**

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Craig, Representative Anielski, Representative Brown, Representative Fedor, Representative Landis, Representative Miller, Representative Perales, Representative Riedel, Representative Vitale, Representative Young and Representative Zeltwanger: My name is Nichole Coleman and I am a seven-year Air Force veteran who served in Desert Storm and I am also the wife of a 10-year Air Force veteran. I am a county veterans service officer and the director of the Hancock County Veterans Service Office and I am the president of the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

Our association along with the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners provided data with our October testimony after the introduction of HB 192 identifying the number of OEF, OIF and Desert Storm veterans are already represented on the Veterans Service Commissions and in the Veterans Service Offices. Our survey shows that 19% (just less than 1 in 5) of the County Veteran Service Commissioners and over 45% of the VSC employees have served in the military since August of 1990. Of those who have served in this Modern Era\* 44% have served in theater.

I am not going to repeat the testimony from October but would like to add that the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee voted to oppose HB 192 at their October meeting. The minutes reflecting that vote will be available until Thursday, March 8.

As responsible stewards of tax payers' dollars we see this legislation as an unnecessary expenditure. If all 88 counties were to add two additional VSC that would be an additional 176 commissioners. This will create additional pay, travel, training and administrative costs.

We appreciate the time and interest each of you have shown in ensuring our veterans are properly served, just as they have served our Nation.

Notes:

- *My definition of 'modern era' is serving since August of 1990*
- *88 Counties X 5 CVSC = 440 Total CVSC*
- *83 of the 440 CVSC served in the military after August 1990. 83/440 = 19 %*
- *242 of the 537 members of the staff served in the military after August 1990. 242/537 = 45%*
- *Total number serving in the modern era 83 CVSC + 242 Staff = 325.*
- *Total Number serving in theater during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or who served subsequently in those theaters of operation 44 CVSC + 100 Staff = 144*
- *Of those who served in the modern era (144/325 = 44%) 44% have served in theater*