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Chairman Uecker, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in favor of Senate Bill 190 on behalf of the Jefferson County Veterans Services Commission.

It is our position that senate bill 190 would help veterans by providing them an additional 96 hours of sick time to tend to their service connected disability appointments with the VA. Further we agree with the time frames and to not allow the 96 hours to be banked or used in the following year.

When veterans leave active duty, we understand that it can be a challenge for them to find employment. It becomes an even greater challenge when the veteran suffers from a service related disability that requires routine appointments at the nearest VA medical center. In Eastern Ohio, the closest VA hospitals are in either Pittsburgh or Cleveland. This presents a challenge to full-time state employed veterans due to the time it takes to drive to either one of these facilities. With the passage of Senate Bill 190, employees will be able to have more flexibility to receive the care they need. We believe that senate bill 190 will be of great benefit to veteran employees across the state of Ohio.