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**Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 311**

**Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee**

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Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 311.

Senate Bill 311 would designate June 12th as “Women Veterans’ Day.” On June 12, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed into law the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, allowing women to serve as permanent members of the U.S. Armed Forces. As a result of President Truman’s historic action, the number of women serving has continued to grow annually across all branches.

As of 2017, 15 percent of all active-duty personnel were women, according to Pew Research. In 2015, 17 percent of active-duty officers were female, representing an 11 percent increase since 1990. Women comprise nearly one out of every five active-duty personnel in the Air Force (19%) but only 8% of all Marines. Women make up 18% of the Navy and 14% of the Army.

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, we believe this bill and day designation will serve as a great opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of women veterans across the State of Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.