

July 20, 2021

To: House Armed Services and Veteran Affairs Committee
134 General Assembly of the State of Ohio Regular Session 2021 -2022

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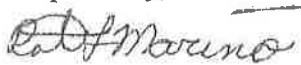
RE: Senate Bill 160

My name is Robert Marino Sr. I proudly served my country for 34 plus years. In the United States Air Force, on active duty and reserve time, I also serviced time to the Army and the Ohio National Guard, retiring as a Master Sergeant (E7) as a loadmaster on C130's. My flying time included over 9 thousand hours flying time with greater than 100 hour's combat flying time, with some of that time in the Persian Gulf. I flew missions in Serbia, Saudi Arabia, Central, South and Latin America, Thailand, almost all of the European Countries and in all 50 states. I am a member of the DA V Chapter 11, VFW Post 3767, American Legion 700, 40 & 8, and a trustee for the American Legion Ohio Buckeye Boys State which is the largest in the nation.

When I retired in 2004 I knew very little about with VA and the benefits I was initialed to. I work on my own to find out what I was initialed to! By read, research and some from word of mouth. I told myself I wouldn't let that happen to any other veteran and would help any veteran and their families that I could. To let them know what they may be able to receive in assistance. Most of the veterans that I've had the honor of helping were mainly in need of medical help due to failing health. Most Veterans are unaware of benefits they are initialed to and they earned. We all have to a better job of helping to educate veterans and their families. This is bill is just one step in the right direction.

This Senate Bill 160 is a first step to help educate Veterans on the process and resources that they may be entitled to and it starts where many of them will end up and that is at a healthcare provider. I can not stress enough the importance of this type of education which puts the veteran in contact with a service organization that can help maneuver a very complicated system especially for older veterans. I strongly encourage you to support Senate Bill 160 and lets start helping Ohio Veterans learn how they can get the help they need for the service they honorable gave our country.

Respectfully,



Robert L Marino
US Air Force Retired Veteran