



# Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers

Chris North  
President  
E-mail: chrisnorth@bizwoh.rr.com

133 S. Ohio Ave.  
Sidney, Ohio 45365  
Office: 937-498-7283

.....

7 December 2021

**President Chris North**  
**Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers**  
**SB 160**  
**House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee**

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Loychik, Ranking Member Miller, Representative Brown, Representative Fowler Arthur, Representative Gross, Representative Holmes, Representative Humphrey, Representative Lampton, Representative Lanese, Representative Richardson, Representative Sheehy and Representative Weinstein: My name is Chris North and I am a veteran of the United States Navy. I was honorably discharged after serving from 2001 to 2004. I served on the USS Ronald Reagan, CVN 76, as a Machinist Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Petty Officer. My family has a strong connection to service of country. My great-grandfather was a veteran of World War II. Four of my cousins currently serve in the armed forces, and five other cousins have served and were honorably discharged.

I have been a veterans service officer for twelve years, and the Executive Director of the Shelby County Veterans Service Office for nearly four years. I am currently the president of the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers (OSACVSO).

We understand that SB 160 serves an important mission to permit hospitals, hospice and other long-term care facilities to disseminate information regarding available assistance and benefits to veterans and their dependents. This initiative is consistent with the goal of the county veterans service commissions, to care for those "...who have borne the battle." This legislation will greatly complement outreach services already performed by county veterans service commissions as well as Congressionally-chartered service organizations.

The OSACVSO wholeheartedly supports the mission of informing veterans and their dependents at a time of need during critical health situations about available resources to ease financial burdens of medical or long-term care. If passed, SB 160 would allow county veterans service commissions to take in additional benefit applications as this provision will undoubtedly lead to more individuals seeking VA assistance. Assisting veterans and their dependents in navigating the VA administration process has historically been one of the commissions' primary functions.

We support the legislation as written and welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsors to develop any amendments to the bill to enhance the provisions that would insure maximum dissemination of information to put veterans and their dependents in touch with veterans service commissions and help them obtain all benefits and assistance to which they are entitled.

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.

**Ref:** S.B. 160 Testimony from OSACVSO/OSAVSC