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Sponsor Testimony- Senate Bill 259
Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee
February 15th, 2022

Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 259.

Senate Bill 259 adds a member of Paralyzed Veterans of America, who is a resident of this state, to the Veteran's Advisory Committee.

The Veteran's Advisory Committee serves to advise and assist the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. There are 23 members on the committee, I was surprised to hear that a representative for Paralyzed Veterans of America was not one of those members.

A representative from Paralyzed Veterans of America serving on the Veterans Advisory Committee is essential to maximizing the advocacy efforts for our veterans who have spinal cord injuries or disease in getting the resources they deserve.

I would like to thank Joseph Myers, Board Member of Paralyzed Veterans of America- Buckeye Chapter, for bringing to my attention that the Veterans Advisory did not have a representative for Paralyzed Veterans of America. The Department of Veterans Services and the current members on the Veterans Advisory Committee are in support of this bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on Senate Bill 259.