

**Senate Bill 153 Sponsor Testimony | Senator Frank Hoagland**  
**Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee**  
**April 28, 2021**

---

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee – thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony for Senate Bill 153.

This legislation would allow for the continuation and expansion of the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation program funded in the previous Operating Budget and that many of you have heard me discuss throughout the last General Assembly.

As a veteran, I understand the obstacles faced by our military men and women, not only in the field but also at home. I have seen the effect PTSD has on not only service members but on their families and their ability (or lack thereof) to navigate everyday life. Throughout my military career, I have learned that freedom is never free and that our

service men and women pay for it dearly, each and every day – I have lost several friends to suicide, many of which have battled with PTSD and other service related illnesses.

As a legislator, my main focus is to advocate for my constituents and in this program I saw an opportunity to assist Ohio's military population. With the help of other legislators and staff members, we were able to create a pilot program that focused on the following objectives:

- 1) **Saving lives** – the program focused on serving veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and alcohol or substance use disorders. The end goal was to improve their health, give them hope, and provide them with the tools necessary to return to everyday life as productive citizens.
- 2) **Veterans helping veterans** – with the implementation of a veteran peer-to-peer network, we were able to foster the feeling of trust and connection between the participants of the program, their veteran peers and even their treatment team. This was an aspect of the program that I felt became critical to the overall mission.

As a veteran, I understand the importance of the camaraderie that comes from being a part of the veteran community.

3) **Collecting data** – This integral part of the pilot program was done with the intention to submit for approval from the FDA. This is a crucial aspect of the program, as it not only supports the work being done in the program, itself, but approval from the FDA will mean wide spread availability of treatment and coverage by insurance providers.

This new legislation would enact necessary changes to the parameters previously laid out for the original pilot program.

Senate Bill 153 would require an EEG to be used in combination with the TMS treatment. This protocol will mean treatment is calibrated to the each patient's physiology and biometric data.

This legislation would also expand participant numbers to include up to 300 veterans as well as up to 300 law enforcement officers and first responders. This population would be treated for any of the following: alcohol or substance use disorders, mental illness, sleep disorders,

traumatic brain injuries, post traumatic stress disorder and its comorbidities, sexual trauma and issues relating to quality of life.

This legislation would allow the directors of the departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Veterans Services to select up to 10 branch site locations and/or mobile units to be established across Ohio, in an effort to create widespread access to this program.

This legislation also explicitly requires that an FDA adherent study be conducted with the ultimate goal that the data be submitted to the FDA to further the study and approval process for future insurance coverage.

Senate Bill 153 would appropriate a total of \$12million (to be split between Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023) from the General Revenue Fund.

The original implementation of this pilot program not only allowed us to give hope to veterans but also their families and has taught us how best to move forward in the expansion of this program. I've had the privilege of hearing the stories of many participants in this pilot program and I

know you will find inspiration in their stories as testimony moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for Senate Bill 153 and advocate for my fellow veterans. I'd be happy to answer any questions, at this time.