



OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSIONERS

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December 1, 2023

Ohio House of Representatives

Opposition and Condemnation to proposed House Bill 69 (formally HB 729), Introduced Legislation by Ohio Representative Brian Stewart.

Greetings:

This letter voted on and adopted unanimously by the body of the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners and its Executive Board made up of the 440 Ohio Veterans Service Commissioners is in complete opposition and condemnation of introduced Legislation of House Bill 69, sponsored by Representative Brian Stewart with now Co-Sponsor Representative Bernard Willis.

On Wednesday, 2 November 2022 the leadership of the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners and the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers met with Ohio Representative Brian Stewart to discuss the makeup of the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners and assist Representative Brian Stewart in understanding how his introduced legislation of HB 729 (now HB 69) will negatively impact Ohio's Veterans.

Ohio Representative Brian Stewart's introduction of proposed legislation openly age discriminates, alienates, and ostracizes not only our Vietnam Veterans but all pre 9/11 Veterans. This threatens current safeguards that ensures proper funding to our Veterans Service Commissions to care for our Veterans, their widows, and their dependents. Representative Stewart's suggested entitlement will lead to segregation and division among our Veterans community. Representative Stewart's intended bill will discriminate against all Veterans, with one exception... HIS era of service.

The current method where Common Pleas Judges are the appointing authority for Veterans Service Commissioners ensures the newly appointed Veterans Service Commissioner remains politically impartial.


It saddens us that Representative Stewart discriminates Veterans against age and era served. As a Veterans Service Commissioner, we represent all era's of Veterans equally without one generation of Veteran being superior over another. We are Veterans; We serve together under a single oath without regard to era served. It is of these concerns that we are in opposition and condemnation of the introduced legislation of House Bill 69, by Ohio Representative Brian Stewart. The Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners greatly appreciates your support in the opposition of House Bill 69.

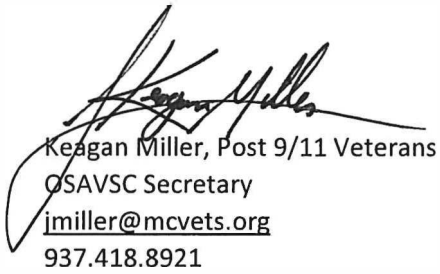
Yours in Service,



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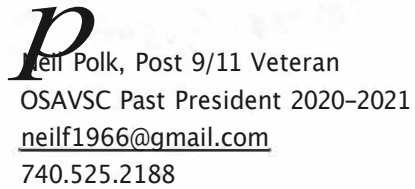


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