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**House of Representatives Armed Services and
Veterans Affairs Committee
Senate Concurrent Resolution 8 — Sponsor Testimony
June 11, 2024**

Chairman Loychik, Vice Chair Demetriou, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House of Representatives Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 8.

This resolution urges the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Congress to take prompt action to reduce processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims. This is an issue that was brought to my attention by one of my constituents, who is a veteran.

According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), the average time to complete disability-related claims in February of 2023 was 102.2 days. It has since increased to 149 days in December of 2023 and again to 155.5 days in April of 2024.

The VA describes processing time for claims over 125 days as backlog. Additionally, the number of backlogged claims was at 278,929 claims as of June 8, 2024.

It is simply unacceptable to take over four months to process a veteran's disability-related claim, especially in cases where the claim is denied and sent to be appealed. Additionally, the time to process claims should be improving, not getting worse.

This resolution is a step in the process to send a message to the federal government that the Ohio General Assembly strongly encourages them to provide our nation's veterans full and fair consideration of their disability benefits claims in a timely and responsive manner.

Our veterans deserve answers from a more accountable and transparent Department of Veterans Affairs.

This resolution has the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio, the American Legion Department of Ohio, and the Ghosts of War Motorcycle Club.

I am pleased to report that there was no opposition to the bill in the Senate.

Thank you once again Chairman Loychik and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.