



Representative Bernie Bunyan Willis

74th House District

House Concurrent Resolution 9- Sponsor Testimony

December 5th, 2023

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and other members of the House Homeland Security Committee, thank you for allowing myself and Representative Gross the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for H.C.R. 9; the Restoration of America's Readiness Resolution, or better known as ROAR.

As a retired Air Force Colonel, myself, I know the desire and urge to want to serve and protect this great nation and state. Our Ohio citizens are no different in this matter. They have always been ready to answer the call with courage, understanding fully the true meaning of devotion, passion, and sacrifice. It is for this very reason that both Representative Gross and I have decided to sponsor this imperative Resolution. We desire to not only preserve the worldwide dominance of the United States Armed Forces', but to additionally encourage the best and brightest Ohio has to offer to enlist. Much like that of how we felt when we joined, we want them to answer the call of service that is far bigger than themselves.

Although there is an argument to be made that the Department and its military services have participated and actively engaged in practices that have eroded the core values and principles of serving over the past years, I firmly believe that with some care and attention we can correct the course of these actions. We must return it to the concept of merit and performance over that of person-centric identifiers, so that our national security and prosperity can once again be obtained.

This Resolution calls upon the United States Congress to reinstate the Department of Defense's commitment to true war fighting principles, emphasizing the recruitment, assignment, training, promotion, and retention of personnel solely on the basis of merit. Additionally, it underscores the importance of ensuring that such personnel consistently embody and demonstrate that of a warrior ethos.

I sincerely appreciate you granting us the opportunity to speak on this resolution. Pending any further questions, this concludes my testimony H.C.R. 9. I would be happy to take any questions at this time.