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# Joe Miller
State Representative House District 53

**Representative Joe Miller, Ohio House District 53**
**House Homeland Security Committee, HB 423 Sponsor Testimony**

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 423. This legislation introduces the "Blue Star Banner" license plate to recognize and honor the sacrifices made by both our brave veterans and their families who support them. The Blue Star Banner, also known as "The Service Flag", was designed and patented by WW1 Army Captain Robert Quesser of the 5th Ohio Infantry. Captain Quesser was inspired to design the flag for his two sons serving on the front line.

The "Blue Star Banner" license plate would be designed by representatives of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, and will be required to display an appropriate logo and words. An application to the registrar of motor vehicles for this license plate is valid if any member of the immediate family is currently serving on active duty of any branch of the armed forces, including those on active duty in the reserves or national guard. "Member of the immediate family" includes spouses, parents, stepparents, siblings, children, and grandparents. This application requires supporting documentation, chosen by the registrar (as documentation standards are likely to change), certifying the active duty member is currently serving.

This legislation will work to ensure deserved recognition and respect for our veterans and their families, and a displayed banner or license plate shows a family's pride in their loved one's service. Currently, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan, & Tennessee offer Blue Star Banner License Plates. The State of Ohio offers over 40 military themed license plates. Let's add the "Blue Star Banner" License Plate to that list.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this legislation, I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.