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Testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee

House Bill 53 - *Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans*

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Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 53.

Not much has changed since I stood before you last Tuesday. I am still David Root, and a State Legislative Chairman for the Department of Ohio Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Today I would like to offer my thoughts on HB 53. This bill is not only going to benefit Ohio employers, it is also going to help Ohio veterans and the State of Ohio as well.

The obvious benefit is that employers will be able to apply for a refundable tax credit if they employ certain veterans, service members, and their spouses. You can all read the Bill Analysis that LSC put out so I won't take up your time by repeating that summary to you.

What I do want to talk about today is the benefit this bill will have for our veterans and the effect it will have on all of Ohio.

House Bill 53 will not put any money into the veterans pockets. It will offer the incentive for Ohio employers to put veterans at the front of the line when they consider who they want to hire. It will also put veterans at the end of the line should an employer be considering temporary layoffs or downsizing. In short the bill will cause more veterans to become employed and to remain employed.

The benefit I see for our state is that these tax credits will be an encouragement for more business start-ups and an incentive for businesses to either move to Ohio or enlarge their current Ohio operation. It will also encourage hard working, well qualified veterans to move to Ohio or remain in Ohio because of better employment opportunities. It will be a boost for Ohio in the categories of 'business friendly state' and 'veteran friendly state'. A win-win for Ohio and at a minimal cost.

I applaud Representatives Jean Schmidt and Adam Miller for introducing House Bill 53 and I hope you will join the 15 cosponsors who support it. I know there are three of you who have already done so, and I thank you for that.

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Lorenz, Ranking member Troy and all committee members, thank you again for allowing me to testify today. I will gladly answer your questions if I can.