



**STATEMENT OF THE OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 12**

Before the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee
Senator George F. Lang, Chair

Chairman Lang, Vice-Chair Wilkin, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee: On behalf of the Ohio State Bar Association (“OSBA”), thank you for the opportunity to present written-only testimony in support of Senate Bill 12.

Following the success of the existing minority business enterprise certification program and the women-owned business enterprise certification program, Senate Bill 12 creates the veteran-owned business enterprise certificate program to support our military veterans after they have given so much to our state and country.

In addition to creating the veteran-owned business enterprise certification, Senate Bill 12 also opens eligibility to certain set-aside programs for certified businesses. This includes eligibility for contract purchase set asides through the Department of Administrative Services and other agencies, which is consistent with federal procurement policy.

The OSBA supports such a designation, as those who have served the nation in the armed forces deserve the assistance of the State of Ohio in growing the businesses they have started since being honorably discharged.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 12.

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