



House Bill 569 Proponent Testimony
House Higher Education & Career Readiness Committee
May 10, 2022
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Good morning, Chairman Lanese (LA NIECE), Vice Chair Young, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the House Higher Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill 569 today. My name is Amanda Byers and I'm the Director of Talent & Policy for the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. As the leading voice of business in the Dayton region, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 2200 members across nine counties in southwest Ohio. For our members, and the business community as a whole, it is imperative that we continue to make our state as friendly as possible to our military families and Veterans.

The State of Ohio has made significant strides in these efforts over the last several years, eliminating military retirement pensions from state income tax, allowing military dependents to be eligible for in-state tuition from day 1, and working to ensure licensure reciprocity for trailing spouses in certain industries. Through these efforts, and others, the State of Ohio has been committed to supporting the economic engine of installations like Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio's largest single site employer, as well as recognizing the invaluable contributions our military members and veterans make to the workforce of our state.

With House Bill 569, we can recognize and support the important work that is done by "Hidden Heroes" on a daily basis, caring for 100% disabled veterans across our communities. Very often, family members of our disabled veterans who step into the role of caregiver are required to quickly re-evaluate many different aspects of their lives, including their career trajectories. House Bill 569 would distinguish our state as military and Veteran friendly, and support Ohio's "Hidden Heroes" as they work to support their loved ones and families.

House Bill 569 is a simple bill, but it carries a great deal of weight for the Dayton community and for the State of Ohio as we work distinguish ourselves against our peer communities across the country who are also competing for both economic investments and talent. Our Veterans and the Hidden Heroes who care for many of them are a key part of what makes Ohio unique AND competitive.

I commend Representative White and Representative Holmes for taking up this important issue, and I look forward to working with them as we continue to make Ohio the most welcoming state in our nation for military and Veteran families.