



Department of Veterans Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Chip Tansill, Director



Testimony to the Sunset Review Committee re. the Veterans Advisory Committee

Danny Eakins

November 16, 2015

Chairman Brown, members of the Sunset Review Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding the Veterans Advisory Committee.

The Veterans Advisory Committee serves to advise and assist the Ohio Department of Veterans Services on matters affecting Ohio's 866,000 veterans and their families. The committee is authorized by Ohio Revised Code section 5902.02 and consists of 23 members from veterans' organizations, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, a labor organization, and the office of the Attorney General. For a full list of members, I refer you to page four of the Sunset Review Committee questionnaire.

The committee does not receive any funding from the state, either through a dedicated budget line item or from DVS. Nor does the committee require any full-time staff, though DVS lends clerical and legislative support during meetings; the Attorney General provides an employee for legal counsel.

For years, Ohio has been a leader among the states for veterans' services. There are many people and organizations to thank for that, not least of them being you, the legislature, for your consistent support in each budget. But serving veterans is more than dollars and cents. Services must be holistic and comprehensive, and to that end, DVS is bolstered by the support of countless nonprofits and veterans' organizations. The Veterans Advisory Committee is the confluence of all that hard work. Moving forward, the demand in Ohio for veterans' services is not likely to diminish, and the Veterans Advisory Committee will remain an important component. Thank you; I'm happy to answer any questions you have.