

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety
For HB 1152

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Hearing Date: March 14, 2023 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Steven Price, Sgt
The V.O.I.C.E.S. Foundation
San Antonio, TX
March 14, 2023

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Committee Members,

My Name is Steven C. Price Sr., I am representing the Troops and veterans of Bexar County, Military City USA and members of The V.O.I.C.E.S. Foundation. And; I am/we are in full support of this Bill # H.B. 1152, relating to the licensing Veterans as Police Officers

Military veterans have demonstrated a strong work ethic, and the ability to work in teams and in the most challenging of life situations. These skills make many veterans ideal candidates for police work.

Here are Five Reasons why veterans make good law enforcement candidates:

1. Veterans Possess a High Level of Discipline, Integrity and Responsibility

There is great pride in doing your job in the military and doing it to the best of your ability. Service members enjoy a community of shared values; likewise, many in law enforcement do, too. It's easy to draw the lines of comparison between military service and law enforcement when it comes to maintaining a high degree of discipline, integrity and personal responsibility.

2. Teamwork

Military veterans are not only trained to contribute to a team in order to thrive, but they also learn that they have to count on a team to survive. Likewise, police officers rely on each other to keep themselves and the public safe.

3. Critical Thinking, Especially During High-Stress Situations

As in the military, police officers require a high degree of critical thinking skills, including during high-stress scenarios. The military does a good job at training personnel to think and act quickly during life-or-death situations.

4. A Community of Shared Values

As with the criminal justice system, most people join the military to be a part of something larger than themselves, to give back, and to help others. The Toys for Tots program, a wildly successful toy donation program started by the Marine Corps, is a good example of military community engagement. Similarly, the Police Athletic League, a national police department athletic program, helps pair underserved children with police mentors while learning the importance of teamwork in athletics.

5. A Desire to Serve Others

Ask any service member you know why they joined the military. Chances are that part of their answer would include the fact that they wanted to serve others and make a difference. The same could be said of police officers.

In both the military and law enforcement, there is a culture of "to protect and serve." What's not often talked about is the critical role service members play in many natural disasters. They come with food and aid worldwide. Law enforcement, while working on a local level, has many community aid programs with the goal of strengthening a community, especially the underserved and vulnerable.

According to the U.S. Justice Department, "Nearly 25% of the police force in the United States has a military background, and that's, in part, because of how much these careers complement each other."

Thank you,

Bill Avera, Chief
Texas School District Police Chiefs' Association
Jacksonville, TX

Our association is in support of this bill.