



State Representative Kenny Yuko

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Rep. Yuko Praises Executive Order Creating *Ohio GI Promise*

Richmond Heights Lawmaker: Program Good for Military Families, Ohio's Future

COLUMBUS – State Representative Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) praised Ohio Governor Ted Strickland's signing today of an executive order creating *The Ohio GI Promise*.

The order makes any United States military veterans, their spouses, and their children "honorary Ohioans" if they choose to attend an Ohio college or university. That means they would be charged in-state tuition rates. Governor Strickland said today that significant savings, coupled with the new federal GI Bill signed into law last month, would make a college education for nearly all veterans free.

"There is no more noble responsibility, no more noble sacrifice than to give of yourself to serve your community and your country," Rep. Yuko said. "Our military members and their families deserve our respect and admiration, and as a legislator, I can think of no better way to honor their commitment than to craft policies that make their lives better here at home. This Promise helps fulfill that mission."

The Ohio GI Promise signed by the Governor today also:

- Establishes a Council to market the University System of Ohio to veterans across the country and ensure the best possible programs and services at those schools for veterans
- Launches a hotline (1-877-VETS-OH-1) and website (<http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/veterans>) to serve as gateways to information for veterans on Ohio colleges and universities
- Schedule a fall conference to consider what procedures and services should be implemented for veterans at all Ohio colleges and universities
- Expand the allowed use of Ohio National Guard Scholarships for graduate study, housing, books/supplies and transportation (currently only used for tuition and fees)
- Certify all Ohio colleges and universities as "Servicemember Opportunity Colleges" for purposes of transferring college credit earned during military service to institutions of higher learning in Ohio

"This Promise not only supports military members and their families, but it also supports Ohio's future by attracting more of the best and brightest to our state," Rep. Yuko said. "These loyal patriots will contribute to our wonderful quality of life in Ohio, and they will help position our state for prosperity in the years to come."