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Veterans' Affairs Committee  
February 18, 2021  
Zoom 9:00 AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 413  
*An Act Exempting Veterans from The Fees For Application Or Renewal Of Occupational Licenses*

Chairman Cabrera, Chairman Boyd, and distinguished members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 413, *An Act Exempting Veterans from The Fees For Application Or Renewal Of Occupational Licenses*.

My name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

After speaking with several veterans throughout my district, I believe we need to amend state law to exempt veterans from the fees for the application or renewal of occupational licenses. Like you, I have veterans in my district who have started small businesses upon the completion of their military career. In some cases, they have successfully used their GI Bill benefits to learn a new skill or trade and have embarked on their civilian career path in their chosen field. For these veterans, starting a new business can be costly. By exempting their licensing fee, we can aid these veterans transition back into the community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 413. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.