

Madam Chair Renee Erickson of the Senate Committee on Commerce,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill No. 2745, which seeks to exempt military spouses of active military service members from all occupational licensing, certification, and registration fees. As a retired member of the United States Air Force and the Vice Chair of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission, my professional background has deeply ingrained in me the values of service, dedication, and community support.

Throughout my career, I have been committed to fostering environments that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, as well as supporting frameworks that enable individuals to achieve their full potential. This bill aligns with these principles by recognizing the unique challenges faced by military families, particularly the spouses who often have to relocate and adapt to new environments due to their partners' service commitments.

The proposed legislation not only acknowledges the sacrifices made by military families but also offers practical support to ease their transition into new communities. By removing financial barriers associated with professional certifications, we can significantly improve the career mobility and economic stability of military spouses. This, in turn, contributes to the overall readiness and resilience of our military families.

I urge the legislature to pass House Bill No. 2745, recognizing it as a step towards honoring our commitment to military families and furthering our collective goal of building inclusive and supportive communities.

Sincerely,

Jonathan McRoy, USAF Ret.
Vice Chair Kansas African American Affairs Commission