

HB2036 – Todd Schroeder - Proponent

As the Department Service Officer for the VFW in the great State of Kansas, I am one of a few veterans who decided to stay in this state and made it my home of residence. This was due to the environment I was able to acclimate myself to for the last 5 years while I was stationed in Wichita before retiring after 20 years of honorable service.

During my 20 years of service in the United States Marine Corps, several conversations were had with other service members about their home of record. In many cases, the states of Texas, Florida, and Illinois were brought up due to the tax breaks and incentives that were granted to those who were serving and reporting those states as their home of record.

This bill will open the door for other veterans and current service members to consider Kansas as a viable choice for home of record. Ownership of property is a big deal for anyone, and by granting this type of incentive for those who have served will pave the way for other potential citizens to consider Kansas as a place to establish roots and transition from military to civilian life. I have no doubts that Kansas legislation will see a significant increase in the Kansas veteran population as a result of this bill.

I have the pleasure of speaking with many active duty military and many of them would consider residing in Kansas after service, but consider other states based on benefits provided to veterans. This bill will make Kansas more competitive for home residence which can have a cascading, positive impact on Kansas both socially and economically.

In FY2022, there were 35,008 claimants (Veterans, Surviving Spouses, Dependent children and/or parents) receiving VA monetary benefits throughout the State of Kansas which brought in federal dollars to just under \$56M per month. This brings an annual total to the state just under \$672M. It is estimated that there are approximately 195K to 210K veterans in the State of Kansas. If we take the low number of 195K for potential veterans/claimants receiving benefits, then only 17.95% of veterans/claimants are receiving monetary benefits. Efforts are being made to capture all 195K of veterans residing in Kansas.

Long story short, if legislation were to approve this, it would make Kansas a more appealing choice for existing veterans throughout our nation and for those future veterans who are still serving in our Armed Forces. I know that cost must be assessed when determining proposals such as these, but added value should be considered as well.

Semper Fidelis,

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The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Veterans Service operates out of the VFW Memorial Building in Washington, DC and oversees a network of approximately 2,000 professionally trained accredited representatives. If you need assistance from an NVS staff member, please contact us using the DSO Helpdesk at [DSOHelpdesk@vfw.org](mailto:DSOHelpdesk@vfw.org) or by phone at (202) 543-2239.

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