



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

VFW Dept of Kansas State Assistant Service Officers

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Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Mason, Ranking Minority Member Gartner, and the remainder of the Taxation Committee, good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Harry Schwarz I am a life member and Veteran Service Officer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars or as you may know it as the VFW.

I am here today to in support of House Bill 2036, this bill is a great first step to taking care of our disabled Veterans. For far too long Kansas has been behind the curve on taking care of our Veterans and this bill is a great first step to making sure those Veterans are taken care of.

There is no reason we should stop here, why not include all property not just homes? Did you know that Kansas is ranked #17 in the United States for Veteran friendly states according to wallethub.com. Why are we not top 5?

As a Veteran that is in the trenches with our Veterans everyday navigating the bureaucracy of the VA and the state of KS, our Veterans deserve better. I speak to and work with Veterans retiring or separating from service every day and they are leaving the state to go to more Veteran friendly states. I know this because I ask them "why aren't you staying?"

Many of our Veterans only source of income is their VA Disability check and can't work because of those injuries sustained during wartime. I encourage you to support and pass this bill. Furthermore, I strongly recommend that you consider adding all taxable personal property to this bill, or to a future bill, to help our Veterans. Especially those that are struggling to make ends meet and living on a fixed income.

I've seen firsthand the politicians of this state play political games instead of taking care of our Veterans. Our Veterans home is a prime example of party over people and Veterans do not want to see that again.

This is about our Veterans not politics!

Thank you!