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PAT PROCTOR

41ST DISTRICT

LEAVENWORTH, FORT LEAVENWORTH & KICKAPOO

January 10, 2024

Chairwoman Caryn Tyson
Chair, Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Madam Chairwoman:

Thank you for allowing me to appear in strong support of HB 2036.

This bill creates a property tax exemption for disabled veterans on a sliding scale, those with a disability rating of 30% getting a 60% tax exemption and those with a rating of 70% or more and those over 65 getting an exemption of 100% of property taxes. This exemption would also apply to the surviving spouse of qualifying disabled veterans.

In coordination with Geary, Riley, and Leavenworth Counties, I have drafted an amendment which would allow those three counties, the most impacted in the state, to receive reimbursement from the state for their lost revenue as a result of this exemption. I respectfully ask that you consider this amendment when debating the bill.

The men and women who sacrifice to defend our nation don't just sacrifice their time. Military service is hard on their bodies and many are injured in the line of duty, leaving them permanently disabled. This disability can have a severe impact on their ability to work and earn money. This bill acknowledges that fact and provides tax relief to help them make ends meet.

There is already a homestead tax exemption in statute for disabled veterans and those over 65. Unfortunately, the maximum income requirements for that program, even after legislation last year that keys that maximum income to inflation, is too low for most disabled veterans to qualify. HB2036 would dramatically increase the number of disabled veterans eligible for property tax relief.

Thank you for your time and attention. And thank you for hearing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Proctor".

Pat Proctor, PhD.
Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
State Representative
Kansas House District #41
Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth, and Kickapoo