

## **KANSAS DISABLED VETERANS LOBBY**

**R.W. Miller**  
**Chairman**

TO: Senate Tax Committee

January 12, 2024

RE: ORAL TESTIMONY FOR HB 2036

MY NAME IS DICK MILLER AND I AM ACTING AS CHAIRMAN FOR THE KANSAS DISABLED VETERAN'S LOBBY, A GRASS ROOTS GROUP OF VETERANS WHO WISH TO EXTEND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR HUNDREDS OF KANSAS DISABLED VETERANS. REPRESENTATIVE PAT PROCTOR HAS INTRODUCED HOUSE BILL # 2036 WHICH OFFERES CERTAIN V.A. RATED DISABLED VETERANS, A PRO-RATED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.

WE UNDERSTAND, EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AND NON-VETERAN SENIOR CITIZENS ARE EXCLUDEDD FROM THIS BILL. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ALL OF THESE GROUPS ARE NOT DESERVING OF SOME TAX RELIEF.

I BELIEVE WE CAN ALL AGREE, MANY OF THESE GROUPS NEED TAX RELIEF, BUT PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO CATEGORIZE THESE GROUPS WITHIN THE SAME **LEAGUE** AS THE "DISABLED MILITARY VETERAN." SUCH A NOTION IS SIMPLY APPLES-TO- ORANGES. THIS BILL, HOWEVER, WILL BE A MONUMENTAL STEP TOWARDS FUTURE BILLS ADDRESSING ALL DESERVING GROUPS.

EMERGING FROM THE GALLERY, ONE COUNTY WAS FEARFUL THEY WILL LOSE SOME TWO MILLION DOLLARS OF REVENUE TO SUPPORT THIS BILL. WITH THAT, REPRESENTATIVE PROCTOR DEVELOPED A PLAN WHEREIN COUNTIES CAN ASK FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO MAKE THEIR COUNTIES "WHOLE". THE AMMENDMENT TO HB 2036 DISPELS THEIR CONCERN. THIS REVISED BILL IS A **NO-LOSE PROPOSITION**.... END OF STORY.

WE ALSO HEARD RUMBLINGS THAT THE WORDING OF THIS "EXEMPTION BILL" MIGHT LACK CONSTITUTIONAL IMMUNITY. OF COURSE A CONSTITUIONALITY CHALLENGE IS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY, BUT WE BELIEVE THE REVISOR HAS SOMEWHAT DISPELLED THAT FEAR.

LAST WEEK A LEAVENWORTH COMMISSIONER ALLEGED THAT THE DISABLED VETERAN'S PLIGHT IS "OVER-PLAYED", STATING THAT A VETERAN CAN BE RATED 100% IF HE OR SHE MERELY HAS SLEEP APNEA. I WILL SAY EMPHATICALLY, THIS COMMISSIONER IS IL-INFORMED.

THE VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION REQUIRES YEARS OF INTENSE, VERIFIED TESTING BEFORE AWARDING "ANY" RATING. TAKE THAT TO THE BANK. END OF STORY.

MY FRIENDS, I TRULY BELIEVE WE HAVE A BILL WITH UNAMUOUS, BIPARTISN, LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT, WHEREBY KANSAS IS FINALLY GOING TO STEP TO THE PLATE AND **NOT** BE INCLUDED IN THE LOWER 30% OF OUR GREAT STATE'S... THAT HAVE IGNORED THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THEIR DESERVING, DISABLED VETERANS.

I AM PROUD THAT OUR COMMITTEE HAS HELPED WITH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE'S, BI-PARTISAN VOTE OF : 123-1. THAT SHOULD BE A VIVID INDICATION OF THIS BILL'S FAVOR.

FINALLY, HERE WE ARE. THE BILL IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF OUR KANSAS SENATE. WE FEEL ENCOURAGED IT WILL BECOME LAW.

IN SUMMARY, LET ME SAY NOW.....THANK YOU REPRESENTATIVE PROCTOR, SENATOR TYSON, THE ENTIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND NOW THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS SENATE. I ASK THAT YOU JOIN US AND HONOR THE PLIGHT OF OUR STATE'S DISABLED VETERANS. THIS LAW WILL LITERALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE "FORGOTTEN AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF WAR".

THANK YOU !

R.W. (DICK) MILLER

CHAIRMAN, KSDVL.COM