

HB 2036

Dear Senate Taxation Committee

I volunteer helping Soldiers navigate the Integrated Disability Evaluation Process (IDES). I started volunteering after going through this process with my wife Heather Morgan. Her life was turned upside down while serving in the Army. Her career was cut short as she was only able to serve 20 years in the United States Army Reserves with 17 of those years being active duty. She was a full time AGR Soldier.

Heather started having health issues that caused her to no longer be fit for duty. Heather's family is from Manhattan, KS. We explored moving to Manhattan, KS to be close to them for support and comfort. My wife is 100% VA P&T. She is rated 80% for CRSC & she is medically retired via a Chapter 61 pension with a combat related injury. She is also a SSDI recipient. Her health is very poor. Her need for care caused me to sell a large portion of my company and be her full-time caretaker along with caring for our 2 kids that are 6 & 9 years old.

When we were without a home and trying to decide where to live, we had to prioritize between support system and finances. Heather has very good support from her family in Kansas, and we were leaning towards moving there. Once we crunched the numbers, we discovered Kansas would be one of the most expensive states to move to compared to all the other states we were considering. We considered moving to Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Florida. Had Kansas offered a full property tax exemption for disabled veterans we would have chosen to move there.

Kansas is missing out on income tax, sales tax, and many other taxes paid by citizens who decide to live there. We chose to live in Texas and now our income is being spent in the Texas economy. We purchased a new construction house, tens of thousands of dollars in furnishings for it and by living here we will continue to help Texas businesses grow and thrive. Passing a bill in Kansas to exempt property taxes for disabled veterans would go a long way at winning over the many families that are considering Kansas as their new domicile.

Sincerely,

Daniel Morgan