

House Bill 2036

Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicholas Pinson. I am a resident of the state of South Carolina and a 100% VA Disabled United States Army Veteran. I write to you concerning your consideration of Kansas HB2036 in hope that I can relay to you how critical the passage of this item of legislature would be to the veteran population living within Kansas; and perhaps veterans that may someday consider living within Kansas' borders.

As a disabled veteran, I benefit directly from comparable legislation that exists in South Carolina. I enjoy tax exemptions on both of my personal vehicles as well as my primary residence. This exemption has allowed me to retain over \$1500.00 in funds this past year alone. I don't believe I need to emphasize how much of a boon that is beneath our current national economic troubles. These exemptions are one of a multitude of ways the state of South Carolina shows gratitude for my military service. I also benefit from my qualifying for 'Disabled Veteran' vehicle operator's plates which allow me special parking privileges anywhere in my state of residence under specific conditions. There are also opportunities for tuition assistance, employment placement and a plethora of additional state programs designed to assist South Carolina resident veterans in numerous other ways.

I ask you to be mindful that military veterans are not a homogenous demographic. We represent many walks of life and backgrounds united under the common denominator of patriotism and a willingness to defend this great nation. Less than 1% of Americans are part of the United States Military. I wonder how many of you have served, or how many of you are the direct descendant of a military veteran. How many of you have visited a friend or family member in a VA care facility? The realities of military service transcend civilian understanding at times. The harshness and callousness that linger after such service require a duty of care from society. Esteemed members of the Committee, you are the arbiters of the legal apparatus to provide such care to those deserving of it within the borders of your state. The question of whether they are worthy and whether their service qualifies them for special consideration and care falls to you.

While you deliberate and carry out the process of legislative privilege; bear in mind that your decision will directly affect generations of potential servicemembers from the state of Kansas and its neighbors. As the US Department of Defense struggles to meet yearly recruitment goals, recall that those of us who serve and who have served will watch to see which of our countrymen are willing to support us beyond a salutation and a bumper sticker.

Last year my grandfather, a World War II veteran, passed away at Veteran's Victory House in Walterboro, SC. He was nearly 100 years old. After his military service he became a professor of music; teaching for many years at South Carolina State University, Claflin University and Voorhees College. He was an extremely talented performer and well-respected mentor to hundreds of students and faculty members over the years. When he passed, he was lucky to have been a

resident of the state of South Carolina. He received wonderful end of life care, and he was buried with military honors. Many times, while visiting Victory House I'd stand in the hallways looking at the displayed uniforms of the branches of our military. I'd wonder to myself if one day, I'd also finish my life in a facility like that one. I am grateful that I live in a state that does all it can to support its veterans. I am grateful that my military service is recognized and appreciated by my state's legislators and that they feel that I and veterans like me are worthy of amenities and privileges that make our paths to success a bit less burdensome.

Please provide the veteran residents of the Great State of Kansas with these same benefits. Pass HB2036 and work with the veteran organizations within your state to support these men and women who offered their lives for yours.

With Respect,

Nicholas A. Pinson

United States Army Veteran