

Attention Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Reference HB 2036:

Points to consider –

- Currently 19 other states have Tax Benefits measure like HB 2036 in place, and they are flourishing.
- Most the states around Kansas have tax measures like HB 2036 in place -Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, Texas
- Make no mistake, this Bill allows Kansas to compete against other States to draw and retain Disabled Veterans and continue to be labeled a veteran friendly state.
- Military affairs can show you that veterans tend to follow those Disabled Veterans as a location to reside, as they are assured, that measures are the in place to support the need of them and their families.
- Direct correlation between VA medical and service facilities and the number of Disabled and abled veterans they need to support. IF we continue the current trend of losing our veterans, we stand the risk of losing VA facilities and the Doctors, nurses and administrative employees of the centers to those facilities who have a growing DV demographic population.
- We are losing the leverage to retain a prized commodity, our Disabled Veterans, and their families to our neighboring states.
- It is a false argument that the loss of Tax revenue from Property Tax will be passed onto non-Disabled Veterans. There are numerous ways, such as fuel and toll fees increased of just a few cents to garner this tax revenue. In both examples some of this tax revenue would be collected from those traveling through Kansas.
- Many a corporations seek Disabled Veterans and to locate in veteran friendly locations because of the skill sets these service members have acquired in their service to our nation.
- Two of our state programs Soldiers to Teachers, and Soldiers to Farmers/Ranchers stand to benefit by the passing of HB 2036. For instance, Geary County has many veterans, many disable veterans, that are teachers and counselors. If this bill doesn't pass, then there is nothing to preventing these teachers from moving to the veteran friendly states just across our state line.
- Numerous Disabled Veterans as well as retired veterans volunteer in our communities. The loss of their support due to moving to neighboring states would affect many of our state and local non-profits organizations.
- The impact of losing Disabled Veterans also means losing their families, who have jobs and children attend our grade schools and universities.
- The term "A Veteran Friendly State" has shifted, and Kansas must shift with the times, or face the consequences of losing this population and all associated with supporting them.

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