

Dear Members of the Kansas Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Curtis Ducote, and I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 2036**, particularly the provisions related to the Disabled Veteran Exemption. As a concerned citizen and disabled veteran myself, I believe that this legislation is crucial in recognizing and addressing the unique challenges faced by disabled veterans in our community. Although I am not currently a Kansas state resident, In planning a permanent move to Kansas with my spouse to be near our son who lives in Manhattan, we realized that the taxes in my Riley county are forcing me to look for a home in Texas, just 6-8 hours drive south of Manhattan due to the 100% exemption that they provide for their residents. The saving alone from paying property taxes will allow us to make several trips up to see him, while not providing any economical benefits to the state of Kansas. The current cutoff for the Kansas exemption is \$350k is not reasonable to provide adequate housing without the fear of yearly reassessments that would bump the house value over the low threshold. The 100% disabled veteran property exemption is the main driving factor of where we decide to move. Since retiring from the Army in 2007, we've moved to Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, all provided 100% with the exception of Louisiana which provided 75% of property taxes exemption. The prospect of paying approximately \$6000 on a home values at \$350k would add \$500 to a monthly mortgage note. This is why this issue is important and the main concern for any disabled veteran looking to move to Kansas.

House Bill 2036 represents a commendable effort to provide financial relief and support to disabled veterans who have selflessly served our country. The proposed Disabled Veteran Exemption not only acknowledges the sacrifices made by these individuals but also strives to ease the economic burden they may carry as a result of their service-related disabilities.

As someone who has personally experienced the challenges of transitioning from military service to civilian life, I understand the importance of creating a supportive environment for disabled veterans. The tax exemptions outlined in **HB2036** would undoubtedly contribute to the well-being and financial stability of disabled veterans and their families, allowing them to better integrate into civilian life.

I kindly urge you, as esteemed members of the Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee, to consider the positive impact that **HB2036** can have on the lives of disabled veterans in our state. By supporting this legislation, you will not only be honoring the service and sacrifices of these brave men and women but also taking a significant step towards creating a more inclusive and supportive community for all veterans.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I trust that you will carefully consider the positive implications of **HB2036** for disabled veterans in Kansas. Your support for this bill will undoubtedly make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have served our country with dedication and valor.

Sincerely,
Curtis A. Ducote