

Attention Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Reference HB 2005 Veterans' Valor Property Tax Relief Act:

Points to consider –

- Currently 20 other states and the District of Columbia have Tax Benefits measure like HB 2005 in place, and they are flourishing.
- Most the states around Kansas have tax measures like HB 2005 in place - Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, Texas to name just a few.
- Make no mistake, this Bill allows Kansas to compete against other States to draw and retain Veterans and continue to be labeled as 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 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 increase of just a few cents to garner this “lost” tax revenue. In both examples some of this tax revenue would be collected from those traveling through Kansas.
- Many corporations seek to employ Disabled Veterans and to locate in veteran friendly locations due the unique 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 2005. For instance, Geary County has many veterans, veteran family members and many disabled veterans, that are teachers and counselors for USD 475. 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 veterans volunteer in our communities. The continued loss of veterans has affected many of our state and local non-profits organizations, which we are currently losing to our neighboring states.
- 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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