

Date: 3 February 2025
Bill Number: HB2005
Position: Support
Testimony Type: Written Only
For Meeting on: February 5 at 3:30 PM
Testimony By: Daniel J. Young, CMSgt (Ret), USAF
On Behalf Of: Self
Email: dj.young15@yahoo.com
Telephone: 215-900-6891

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee on Taxation

I hope this message finds you well. I am CMSgt (retired) Dan Young, a disabled veteran having honorably served 30 years in the active duty Air Force. My wife Valerie and I chose to retire in Wichita where we continue to reacquaint ourselves with family in our post-service years. We have also chosen to be small-scale beekeepers, and we use our beekeeping skills to mentor fellow veterans and first responders suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

As a constituent and a permanent and totally disabled veteran, I urge you to please support **HB2005**, which seeks to reduce property taxes by 75% for veterans who are deemed to be totally disabled, permanently and totally disabled, or unemployable. From my own experiences and conversations with fellow veterans at the Robert J Dole VA Medical Center, I can affirm that passage of this measure will greatly enhance and uplift many veterans who feel forgotten and are living on a fixed income due to their disabilities.

Presently, all of Kansas' neighboring states offer significant property tax reductions or exclusions for their veterans. Incorporating this measure into the Kansas tax code will level the playing field for disabled veterans choosing to retire in Kansas, and will likely motivate other servicemembers entering retirement to do the same, bringing their knowledge, skill, tenacity, and families to our wonderfully free state.

I urge you to support **HB2005** to help those Kansas veterans who may be struggling due to their service-connected disabilities. This bill is an excellent opportunity to provide some financial relief to these individuals who at one time or another "wrote a blank check made payable to the 'United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including' his or her life."

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to discuss this further or provide additional information.

Sincerely,
Daniel J. Young, CMSgt (Ret), USAF
Senate District 31 and House District 91