



PURPLE HEART HOMES

IMPROVING VETERANS' LIVES ONE HOME AT A TIME

February 3, 2025

The Honorable Mike Thompson
Chair, Kansas House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs
300 W 10th Ave
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Purple Heart Homes (PHH), a North Carolina-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to serving Veterans across the nation, we are writing to express our strong support for Kansas House Bill 2214. This bill is crucial in safeguarding Kansas' Veterans and their families, ensuring they have access to high-quality, transparent assistance when navigating the often-complex process of securing Veterans' benefits.

Purple Heart Homes was founded in 2008 by Veterans John Gallina and the late Dale Beatty, both of whom served together in Iraq and returned with life-altering injuries. Inspired by the unwavering support of their community, they established PHH to honor fellow Veterans. Today, PHH provides housing solutions to service-connected, disabled, and aging Veterans of all eras across the United States, reflecting our core commitment to supporting Veterans and their rights.

We wholeheartedly endorse the requirements outlined in this bill, which mandate that Veterans' benefit service providers disclose affiliations, compensation terms, and provide transparency regarding their operations. These provisions will protect Kansas' Veterans from unqualified or predatory actors and ensure that only accredited and authorized representatives offer support to Veterans.

In addition, we commend the privacy protections within this bill, particularly those that prevent the use of international call centers for Veterans' personal information processing and enforce background checks for individuals handling sensitive data. These safeguards are essential for preserving the integrity and security of Veterans' personal information.

PHH also supports Veterans' rights to choose reliable and expert assistance, whether through private entities or traditional Veterans Service Organizations. Veterans deserve the freedom to access the support they need without undue restriction or compromise, and these amendments serve as an important step in that direction.

We strongly urge the Kansas Legislature to pass this bill and remain available to assist in any way necessary to ensure Kansas' Veterans receive the highest standard of care and service.

Thank you for your dedication to Kansas' Veterans.

Paul Cockerham
Chief Development Officer
Purple Heart Homes