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

February 3, 2025

Dear Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

As one of the founding members of United Veteran Benefits Agency, LLC a majority-Veteran owned and operated organization, I am writing in support of Kansas House Bill 2214.

KS HB 2214 as we see it provides Veterans the opportunity to choose who they receive support from when pursuing their US Department of Veterans' Affairs disability claims. It encompasses all aspects of the Veterans right to choose, keeping in-tact their first amendment rights, while also including oversight and protection, important for Veterans and civilians alike.

United Veteran Benefits Agency LLC, as I mentioned above, is a Veteran owned and operated organization. Our staff is comprised 100% of Veterans, Veteran spouses and family, and spouses and family members of active-duty service members who understand the medical and mental health difficulties Veterans live with and the complexities of the VA disability process. We have a success rate of 90%, which means fewer appeals bogging down the system. Our goal is to do it right the first time, keeping the process moving through the VA system efficiently, preventing appeals and providing the Veteran with the benefits they have earned in a timely fashion. Passing KS HB 2214 will help alleviate some of the backlog that occurs within the VA system and as stated before, continue to allow Veterans a choice in how they pursue their VA disability claims.

As a consulting firm, our goal is to assist every Veteran who comes to us requesting help in a manner that is tailored to them and their family. We ensure the Veterans we work with understand their options including free services. And, if they choose to go in that direction, but aren't sure where to go, we help provide them with the service that is nearest to them. Since the inception of our business, we have served over 3500 Veterans. Many of them have called us crying from joy and relief after receiving their new VA disability rating stating they've been trying to navigate the system for months with no success. Others have written to us stating we "changed their lives".

As we see it, KS HB 2214 provides protection for Veterans as listed below, while still allowing them the choice of who they want to work with to obtain their VA disability claims.

Our support of Protection for Veterans as we understand and agree with it in KS HB 2214.

- Prohibiting any initial or non-refundable fees, mandating fees to successful outcomes not to exceed the 5x the monthly increase.
- Organizations cannot receive compensation for services rendered in connection with any claim filed within the 1-year presumptive period of active-duty release unless the Veteran signs a waiver stating they deny the free services offered and available to them.
- International call centers and data centers are prohibited.
- Veteran's personal log-in, username, or password may not be used to access their government information.
- Background checks for anyone working with the Veteran are required by a reputable source and include identity verification and a criminal records check.
- Direct and aggressive solicitation are prohibited.
- Guaranteeing a successful outcome is not permitted.
- Requiring the use of HIPAA compliant servers and other protections.

At United Veteran Benefits Agency LLC, we appreciate that House Bill 2214 was put together in a manner that views the needs of a Veteran from all angles. It is comprehensive and well written, and we would like to thank you for your time and effort and the opportunity to share our thoughts with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Jones".

Connie Jones
A Founding and Managing Member