

Oral opponent testimony before the  
Veterans/Military Committee

On

HB 2214 Enacting the safeguarding American veteran empowerment act to limit compensation  
for assisting in veteran benefits matters.

By

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 2214. The intent of HB 2214 is to establish some limited guidelines and policies for individuals or companies that charges fees to “assist” or “consult” a veteran with filing their benefit claim.

The fact remains these individuals are still “Claim Predators”. This practice is illegal. These individuals or companies are not Veterans Administration accredited, they are not required to follow the established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, their advice could be misleading and/or fraudulent. Too often when veterans seek the help for filing claims of unaccredited individuals the fees that are charged are excessive and sometimes hidden from the veteran seeking help to file. This legislation does not meet the requirements established by the Veterans Administration.

Veterans Administration regulations are clear about representation: “No individual may assist claimants in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for VA benefits as an agent or attorney unless he or she has **first been accredited by VA for such purpose.**” 38 CFR 14.629 (b).

Filing a VA claim without prior Veterans Administration accreditation is a crime. Federal law allows only **VA-accredited representatives** to assist with initial claims—and those services are **free** through Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs). Claim sharks operate outside these rules and profit from veterans’ benefits. Many **pretend to be VA-accredited** or imply official status, even though they **lack required training, oversight, and legal authority.**

Charging a fee to file a Veterans Administration claim without VA accreditation is a crime. Expanded benefits under laws like the **PACT Act** and the **large volume of VA compensation payments** have made veterans’ benefits a **lucrative target for scammers.**

HB 2214 does not help protect the veterans of Kansas from being taken advantage of by unethical and unprofessional Claim Predators. We encourage you to not to pass out HB 2214 for consideration by the full House of Representatives.