

Helping our Kansas Veterans

Johnnie A. Keller with Salina Area Veterans Assistance Group
(SAVAG)

I represent veterans in the Salina Area and all veterans that need assistance with any type of claim for not only the veteran but their dependents as well. Our group works with veterans and their dependents, by helping them obtain help through Veteran Service Offices, Veteran organizations and volunteer assistance organizations.

What our group would like to see, is any and every resource that can be available to our veterans. That includes; Veteran Service Officer's, Agencies, Attorney's and Volunteers that can help our veterans with education assistance, healthcare, compensation & pensions. In other words, our group supports HB2214 with certain stipulations or amendments.

- (1) We don't want to see our veterans winning a claim, then have that same legal office or attorney turn around and file a supplemental, or secondary claim which will lead to that veteran paying out another five times the amount of monthly increase in benefits that would be awarded. In other words, let this not

become a version of ambulance chasing that targets out veterans and their dependents.

- (2) Before any outside legal team, attorney or assistance contract is signed, that could lead to the veteran paying out five times the compensation increase. The veteran must be informed of the free services that are available to the veteran, and their dependents and the contact information provided so that the veteran and their dependents have a choice.

- (3) If this becomes law and we allow legal assistance teams (for compensation) to start working in Kansas under the SAVE act. Any advertising that those agencies use to sell their services: must also state that free services are also available through the Kansas Office of Veteran Services, American Legion, VFW and other veteran organizations.

Our veterans today are volunteers. They signed a blank check to be used in defense of our country, wherever our country needed them and our veterans did their part. Some served four years and some served longer and some

even made careers with the military. We veterans aren't looking for a free ride, we just want our country to honor her veterans by making sure that our veterans are being taken care of and not forgotten.

Thank you and I will take any questions that you may have.