

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2767
Establishing the Kansas Military Affairs Commission**

House Committee on Veterans and Military
February 26, 2026

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Carol Meza Bakke. I am an Army combat veteran, Purple Heart recipient, professor at Pittsburg State University, accredited VA claims agent, founder of the Outside the Wire Veterans Foundation, and an appointed member of the Governor's Military Council.

I am her in strong support of House Bill 2767.

Kansas is home to thousands of service members, veterans, and military families whose needs continue long after their service ends. Through my work on the Governor's Military Council and in rural communities, I have seen how important it is to have a dedicated body focused on military issues, and how vulnerable that work can be without a permanent structure. Codifying this commission will ensure sustained attention to the needs of service members, veterans, and their families regardless of changes in leadership.

For many veterans, especially in rural Kansas, challenges such as health concerns, employment, and isolation can make support feel out of reach. A formal commission provides a coordinated way to address these realities while also strengthening Kansas's military partnerships and economic stability.

Most importantly, this bill affirms that service matters and that Kansas stands behind those who serve and their families, not just today, but for years to come.

I respectfully ask you to support House Bill 2767.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to those who have served.



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