



KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
2800 SOUTHWEST TOPEKA BOULEVARD
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66611

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, HOUSE BILL 2406
Concerning Member of the Military; Relating to Harassment;
Civil Cause of Action
JANUARY 12, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss HB 2406 as it relates to support for your National Guard members and their families.

Before I begin, I want to thank this committee for all the tremendous support and caring it has shown those Kansans who have worn the uniform.

As we transition out of Iraq and project a transition in Afghanistan in 2014, we must focus our attention on our returning veterans. The latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics are beginning to show slight improvements in unemployment, hovering around 9%. However, unemployment for our veterans has consistently lagged 3-3.5% behind. More staggering is unemployment for our youngest veterans, age 18-24, at 30.4% up dramatically from 18.4% a year ago. Compare this to non-veterans, age 18-24, currently at 15.3% improving from 16.9% a year ago.

Kansas has a long tradition of supporting the military, particularly the Kansas National Guard. While unemployment statewide as of November 2011 sits at 6.5%, unemployment for your returning National Guard soldiers and airmen hovers near 4.5%. Tough fiscal times and looming defense cuts, however, put these positive numbers at significant risk.

HB 2406 provides another valuable set of tools to support your Kansas National Guard men and women and their families and an assurance you are grateful for their service.

Again, I want to thank the committee for this opportunity and for its continued support to the excellent men and women of the Kansas National Guard.

Thank you for your time and we stand ready for your questions.

Respectfully submitted by:
Col Scott A. Dold, Senior Legal Advisor for the Adjutant General

For

Maj Gen (KS) Lee E. Tafanelli
Kansas Adjutant General

