

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas 125 SE Airport Rd, Topeka, KS 66619

February 27, 2022

To: Representative Adam Smith, and Members of House Taxation Committee

From: Eugene Bradley, Legislative Liaison, EANGKS

RE: HB 2467

I and the members of Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas want to thank Representative Proctor, and the 12 other representatives for sponsoring this piece of legislation. I also want to thank the Taxation Committee for having a hearing on HB2467. It shows that the Kansas legislature continues to make those serving in the military within the State of Kansas a priority.

The purpose of this legislation is to make Kansas a more desirable state for military service members to call home through lowering the taxes for those who serve. It is standard practice for active-duty service members to make a state their residence because of a more friendly tax rate. Ten states do not tax active military pay. Regionally, Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Oklahoma exempt all military pay from state taxes. Colorado also has a stipulation for residents stationed overseas. My association believes that Kansas should continue its proud legacy of supporting the military and pass this piece of legislation.

The Department of Revenue's fiscal note made a good point that this legislation is difficult to simulate. We do not know how many of those serving within Kansas would switch their residencies to Kansas for this benefit. Those servicemembers who keep or move their residency to Kansas would bring their spouse's income into the state, and that is income that we as a state do not currently receive. For guardsmen, it is ensuring our members retain more of their military income to guarantee they and their families are ready for when they go out the door at a moment's notice. We live in very uncertain times, and every piece of stability that we can give our Kansas Guard families is another step toward keeping qualified and experienced guardsmen in the fold.

We generated the \$30,000 number from the average pay up to the rank of E-5. We are aiming to support our young military families, especially those Kansans that join and are stationed at other bases around the country. This \$30,000 would also include most of the Kansas Guardsmen that are serving on a variety of statuses and missions for the State of Kansas. We are weary of ensuring that every guard status is covered, and the legislation as currently written will include guard pay no matter what type of orders or status of the guardsman.

It is with great pride that I am able to be here today standing as a proponent of this bill, representing the Enlisted Association made up of military members that this legislation would serve.

Respectfully,

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