

## **KANSAS DISABLED VETERAN'S LOBBY**

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**FOR: KANSAS TAXATION COMMITTEE**

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I AM RICHARD MILLER OF TOPEKA AND I AM ACTING CHAIRMAN OF OUR, LOOSLY ORGANIZED, LOBBY EFFORT TO AID IN THE PASSAGE OF OUR REVISED VERSION OF HOUSE BILL 2440. (ATTACHMENT #1) . THAT ATTACHMENT CHANGES THE CALCULATION OF TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VETERANS. WE SUPPORT ALL OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

OUR TEAM HAS ENCLOSED A RAW/REVISED FORMAT OF THE INITIAL HOUSE BILL 2440. OUR MAIN REVISIONS WERE INTENDED TO CREATE A "STAND ALONE" BILL. WE DO NOT WISH THIS BILL TO BE ATTACHED OR AFFILIATED WITH THE HOMESTEAD ACT. THIS BILL IS ALL ABOUT "SENIOR DISABLED VETERANS".

OUR #1 REVISION IS A CLEANER AND FAIRER CALCULATION OF THE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR THE DISABLED VETERAN. IT WOULD ALSO BE MUCH EASIER FOR OUR REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO CALCULATE.

ALL OF THIS..... IN HOPES WE CAN ENHANCE THE LIVES OF OUR STATE'S DISABLED, SENIOR VETERANS. IT IS VIVIDLY CLEAR THAT SENIOR DISABLED VETS HAVE LITTLE EARNING CAPABILITIES AND ARE GENERALLY LIVING ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOME WITH LIMITED DISABILITY INCOME. WHEN WE THROW IN ABHORENT PROPERTY

TAXES OUR VETS HAVE TWO CHOICES; PAY UP OR SELL THEIR HOMES AND LEAVE THE STATE.

STATISTICS TELL US THERE IS A FLIGHT OF SENIORS LEAVING OUR GREAT STATE. U-HAUL PROCLAIMS THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF TRUCKS AVAILABLE... LEAVING THE STATE OF KANSAS. IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND. AN AVERAGE SENIOR KANSAN CAN SAVE \$35,000 A YEAR IN TAXATION BY MOVING TO FLORIDA. THEY COULD SAVE \$30,000 A YEAR MOVING TO TEXAS. WHEN THE TAX PAYING POPULATION DECLINES, WE EITHER LOWER THEIR TAXES OR EXPECT AN EXODUS.

HB 2440 BUT FALLS WAY SHORT OF WHAT WE OWE OUR DISABLED VETERANS. OUR LOBBY FEELS WE NEED TO ADOPT A REVISED BILL THAT HAS REAL BENEFIT TO THE VETS INVOLVED. WORKING THE MATH ON THE EXISTING BILL ,( AND THE MATH IS QUITE COMPLICATED,) IS QUITE HONESTLY AN INSULT TO THE VET AND AN EMBARRASSMENT TO OUR GREAT STATE. USING AN EXAMPLE OF AN AVERAGE HOME IN TOPEKA, THE BOTTOM LINE TAX BENEFIT FOR THE INITIAL 2440 WOULD AMOUNT TO A VERY SMALL TAX EXEMPTION.

PLEASE REALIZE THAT KANSAS IS ONE OF ONLY TWO OTHER STATES THAT HAVE NO DISABLED VETERAN STATUTE?? WE ARE TALKING ABOUT BRAVE, PATRIOTIC KANSANS THAT DRAFTED A BLANK CHECK TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT....., GUARANTEED BY THEIR LIVES! LET'S MAKE A GENUINE EFFORT TO ENHANCE THEIR COMPROMISED HEALTH AND FINANCIAL PLIGHT.

I WANT TO THANK SENATORS HOLLAND AND TYSON, AND REPRESENTATIVE ADAM SMITH FOR ALLOWING US TO COME BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE. IT IS TRULY APPRECIATED.

OUR STATE'S COFFERS ARE AS FULL AS THEY'VE BEEN SO WE NEED TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE. WE ARE PROUD KANSANS AND WE LOOK OUT FOR OUR OWN. LET'S KEEP OUR WARRIORS HOME, IN KANSAS.

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