

Testimony on HB 2228
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
By Representative Becky Hutchins

March 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today in support of HB2228.

The Report of the Joint Committee on Kansas Security to the 2015 Kansas Legislature Conclusions and Recommendations states “The Joint Committee recommends the state amend law as necessary so the state adheres to federal guidelines regarding in state tuition for veterans.”

Section 702 of Federal Legislation, known as the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”), requires VA to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty at public institutions of higher learning if those schools charge qualifying Veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students for terms beginning after July 1, 2015.

This bill is supported by all the major veterans’ service organizations. HB 2228 passed the House in order to be in compliant with Federal Law and because of the potential loss of \$104 million in benefits to our veterans.

In conclusion, I would personally like to thank the men and women of our armed forces for their service and sacrifice to our country.

I ask that we show our appreciation and gratitude by passage of HB2228.