



**Testimony to the
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
On House Bill 2228**

March 10, 2015

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Dear Chairman and members of the Committee,

Kansas National Guard Association: I am Nicky Inskeep, Legislative Liaison for the National Guard Association of Kansas (NGAKS). The National Guard Association of Kansas (NGAKS) is made up of officers of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, past and present numbering over 1,300. The NGAKS mission is to support and improve the Army and Air National Guard of Kansas, and promote/undertake activities and programs of benefit to members and their families' well-being. This assists the Kansas National Guard in attracting and retaining the quality National Guard members that the citizens of Kansas have come to expect.

Kansas National Guard: The Kansas National Guard is made up of 7,500 men and women from every area of the state of Kansas. They reside in each legislative district, and make up the communities in which we live. The Kansas National Guard prepares for and responds to the entire spectrum of potential hazards to the people of Kansas; from natural disasters and pandemic influenza to biological and terrorist threats. They are all volunteers, are part of the National Military Strategy, and serve in all corners of the world. More than 5,000 Kansas National Guardsmen are now or have been deployed since September 11, 2001.

Economic Impact: The total economic impact of the National Guard to Kansas communities with National Guard units is estimated to be \$480 million annuallyⁱ. The economic impact of one college student in Kansas, is more than \$13,000ⁱⁱ. That money is spent on school fees, books, living quarters, food, transportation, and other necessary items. This bill might allow National Guard members who may not have been able to afford college attendance to attend our state colleges and universities.

HB 2228 Support: Today, I want to share with you the concern that all Kansas National Guard Members are not included in House Bill 2228. The NGAKS supports the concept of in state tuition for military members, and we support HB 2228, with amendments. *Please ensure that all Kansas National Guardsmen are covered by this policy, not just those on active duty.* Nearly 74% of the Kansas National Guard members are traditional or drill status Guards—meaning they are not on active duty. However, they are trained and ready, activated and deployed just as any active duty service member. There are few Kansas National Guardsmen who live outside Kansas and would be attending state institutions of higher education. But for those few, it would ensure they can remain in school and remain in the Kansas National Guard, serving state and country both.

We propose the following amendment to resolve any question about whether or not National Guard members are part of the armed forces. In The amendment could read as follows in New Section 1:

Amend Section 1 (a)(1) to read: An active duty, **national guard or reserve** member of the armed forces of the United States...

Thank you for considering passage of HB 2228 with this brief amendment that would ensure all our Kansas National Guardsmen are able to attend higher education institutions in Kansas. I am happy to stand for questions.

ⁱ 2013 Kansas National Guard Annual Report at http://www.kansastag.gov/AdvHTML_Upload/files/Annual%20Report%202013%20and%20map.pdf

ⁱⁱ <http://www.kansasregents.org/resources/pdf/1172-kborsystemeconomicimpactstudy.pdf>