

Governor's Military Council

Senate Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Testimony on HB 2154
(Relating to: private sector employers and employment of veterans)
March 17, 2015

Chairman Ostmeyer and members of the Committee, I'm John Armbrust, Executive Director of the Governor's Military Council. Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on HB 2154.

The Kansas Legislature has for many years been very supportive of military activities and veterans in Kansas. This extraordinary support by the Legislature has been taken in part to acknowledge the fiscal and economic impact of military activities in the state – over \$7B per year into the Gross State Product; nearly 160,000 Kansans employed drawing wages and salaries of over \$5B; and payment of property and income taxes of \$350M-\$400M per year.

Given today's environment of decreasing budgets and personnel reductions in the Department of Defense, and the resulting increase of veterans transitioning into society, both the Department of Defense and the Department of Veteran Affairs have made employment of veterans a high priority.

Based on the above, I recommend the Committee favorably consider HB 2154, thereby allowing private sector employers to give veterans a hiring preference without mandating such a preference be given.

Chairman Osmeyer, thank you for the opportunity to provide you and your Committee my thoughts concerning HB 2154.

Respectfully,

John Armbrust
Executive Director
Governor's Military Council