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JEFF PITTMAN

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To Chair Thomas & Members of the House Education committee,

I'm writing in support of our military children considering coming back to Kansas, and specifically the SB123. It is a concept that helps build future workforce and it is a bill that tells our military and veterans that we indeed value their service to our country by helping the ones they sacrifice so much for, their families.

Co-sponsored by myself and Senator Peck, SB 123 would give in-state tuition to military and their dependents who were stationed for a year or long in Kansas but have moved away. As a military child, I would move from post to post often in different countries and states. Sometimes, kids move after they have grown attached to a particular state. I want to give the opportunity for those types of kids to come back to Kansas for college to live in the state they love.

As I stated above, it is a way to attract talented young people here to the state, kids who have parents who have gone through the military. . It would allow kids whose parents were stationed in Kansas for a year or more, to come back to Kansas and get in-state tuition. Because these potential students would be out-of-state, our universities would still have the ability to not accept students that did not meet their acceptance standards. In the end, we can appreciate that could grow our enrollment in Kansas.

Even though we can foresee a net positive impact on enrollment, the core of this bill is to help our military families. It is incredibly important to support military children as they face unique challenges and sacrifices due to their parent's service. Frequent moves, extended periods of separation from parents, and exposure to trauma are just a few of the struggles that military children may experience. By providing support and resources to military children, we can help them navigate these challenges and thrive despite difficult circumstances.

Committee I urge you to strongly consider passing this bill out and providing that statement to our military that they and their families are welcome back to Kansas.

Thank you.

State Senator Jeff Pittman  
Leavenworth KS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Pittman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.