



**HB 2018 Proponent Testimony  
Michael Kelly  
Kansas Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America**

**The Kansas Council of Chapters of MOAA supports HB 2018. Kansas needs poll workers! With this bill, military family members can effectively help meet that need.**

**In December 2024 the Executive Office of the President published a formal report that found:**

- From the perspective of military spouses, employment is a definitive top concern.**
- Military spouses face barriers to meaningful employment**
- Multiple aspects of military life make it difficult to find and maintain employment.**

**A key opportunity for military families from this bill is the ability to make positive social connections in their Kansas community. When the military-affiliated poll worker is seen by others as an industrious reliable worker, positive job referral references are made. Such positive referrals can result in full time employment in the community to the benefit of both the military family and the Kansas community employer.**

**While poll work a few days per year is not a substitute for a full-time job, the bill will eliminate a barrier to the potential for military spouse and military family member employment. This is a welcome change in state policy which opens opportunities for military families and meets the need for poll workers in our elections.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

***Mike Kelly***

**State Legislative Lead  
Kansas Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America**