



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 3, 2025

Rep. Adam Smith, Chair  
Kansas House of Representatives Committee on Taxation  
Room 112-N — Capitol Building  
300 SW 10th Avenue  
Topeka KS 66612

Rep. Angel Roeser  
Kansas House of Representatives  
Room: 167-W – Capitol Building  
300 SW 10th Avenue  
Topeka KS 66612

**Re: 2025 Kansas House Bill 2005 – Written Testimony in Support**

Rep. Smith, Rep. Roeser, and Distinguished Committee Members:

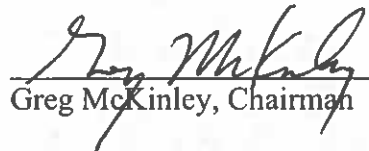
The Riley County Board of County Commissioners enthusiastically lends its support to the current draft of 2025 Kansas House Bill 2005. In the Commission's view, this current draft of tax relief legislation for veterans seems to balance fiscal responsibility with compassion for those whose lives have been permanently impacted by their sacrifice for our nation's safety and freedom.

Unlike previous versions of tax relief legislation for veterans which relied upon reductions to already scarce county property tax revenues, which would have resulted in the undesirable raising of property taxes for all citizens, House Bill 2005 funds property tax relief using the state's budget surplus. This, when combined with House Bill 2005's requirements that a veteran must be permanently and totally disabled and/or unable to work under federal law, strikes a logical balance between responsible fiscal policy and our sacred responsibility to bind up our nation's wounds and care for those whom have born the battle.

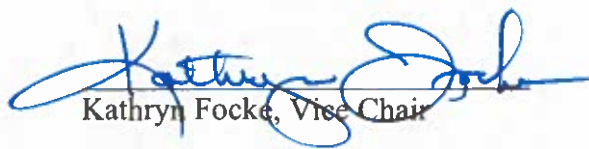
We are concerned, however, that in the not-so-distant future the Kansas Legislature will cease funding this well-intentioned program with statewide tax revenues and will amend this current legislation to be funded as a direct rebate of local property tax revenues, including property taxes directed to school districts, townships, cities and counties. This would be unfair to our local citizens, as well as the citizens of the state's other military communities, as we host a

disproportionate number of our beloved veterans. These costs should be borne by our state as a whole, and using a combination of statewide tax revenues, instead of shifting responsibility to the inherently local revenue stream that is property tax, which is reserved under state law to primarily fund local costs.

Very Truly Yours,



Greg McKinley, Chairman



Kathryn Focke, Vice Chair



John Ford, Member

cc: Vivienne Leyva, Public Information Officer—For Immediate Press Release