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House Committee on Taxation
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 2005 – Veterans' Valor Property Tax Relief Act

Dear Members of the House Committee on Taxation,

I write to you today as a 100% disabled veteran, an older father of two young children (ages 6 and 9), and a proud Kansas homeowner facing an increasingly difficult financial burden due to the rapid rise in property taxes. I urge you to pass HB 2005 and further amend it to provide a **full** 100% exemption, rather than the proposed 75%, to ensure that disabled veterans like myself can afford to remain in our homes.

Studies show that veterans with service-related disabilities have a **significantly lower life expectancy** compared to the general population. In some studies, showing upwards of 18 years lower life expectancy. This means that while others can plan for long-term financial growth, disabled veterans must struggle with a rapidly deteriorating health outlook and rising costs with no means to compensate. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, over **1.2 million veterans** in the U.S. are classified as 100% permanently and totally disabled, facing not only financial hardship but also significantly shorter lifespans due to service-connected illnesses.

Since purchasing my home three years ago, I have witnessed my property assessment skyrocket — resulting in more than a 40% increase in property taxes. This unsustainable rise, combined with my **permanently limited earning potential**, puts my family's housing and future financial security at severe risk. Unlike the general working population, I do not have the ability to increase my income to keep pace with inflation, rising property values, or tax increases while simultaneously preparing for the future.

I am also a highly skilled individual who can no longer work in my field of practice due to my military combat-related disabilities. This has led to severe underemployment, creating significant financial hardships for my family. My disabilities will continue to worsen at an accelerated rate compared to non-veterans, adding to a compounding financial hardship that is beyond my control.

A 75% property tax exemption is a step in the right direction, but it does not fully account for the disproportionate financial hardship that disabled veterans face. Midwestern states such as Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, Oklahoma have already implemented **100% property tax exemptions** for 100% disabled veterans, recognizing that their sacrifice merits comprehensive relief. Kansas should follow suit to honor those who served and suffered lifelong disabilities and decreased life spans in defense of our country.

The state of Kansas should take greater pride in supporting its veterans. By passing and strengthening HB 2005 to provide a **full 100% exemption**, you will demonstrate that our state truly values and cares for those who have borne the cost of freedom. I implore you to consider the significant impact this bill will have on the lives of veterans, surviving spouses and children, including thousands of others across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and hope that you will take decisive action in favor of Kansas veterans.

Sincerely,

Daniel Strom
100% Disabled Veteran
Iraq Veteran, Staff Sergeant USAF

Source: The Mortality Rate of 100% Service-Connected U.S. Veterans - PMC
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8961813/>