



Statement of Peter O'Rourke, President, National Association for Veteran Rights  
House Veterans and Military Committee  
Oral Testimony in Support of 2025 HB 2214  
February 6, 2025

Thank you, Chair Thompson and members of the Committee, for allowing me to appear here today to present testimony in support of House Bill 2214 (HB 2214). I am Peter O'Rourke, President of the National Association for Veteran Rights (NAVR), the former Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) under President Trump, and VA Chief of Staff. I am also a Veteran and bring firsthand knowledge of the systemic challenges our nation's Veterans face when navigating the complex disability claims process. NAVR is a national trade association dedicated to advocating for the rights of service-disabled Veterans and promoting ethical, transparent business practices among organizations that serve them.

HB 2214 establishes clear, ethical guidelines for those advising Veterans on benefits matters. This bill addresses the urgent need for accountability, transparency, and safeguards to protect our Veterans from predatory practices and ensure that those serving them meet the highest standards of integrity.

The provisions outlined in this bill are essential to protecting Veterans' sensitive information and ensuring ethical practices. As someone who has served at the highest levels of the Department of Veterans Affairs, I know how vulnerable Veterans can be when navigating the benefits process. Many Veterans are unfamiliar with the complex system and rely on assistance from third-party advisors. While several organizations act ethically, bad actors exploit Veterans' trust, leaving them vulnerable to identity theft, financial harm, and inadequate representation. This bill directly addresses these risks by instituting commonsense protections.

It's also important to emphasize that this legislation does not restrict Veterans' ability to choose their advocates. Instead, it raises the bar for those serving them by establishing ethical and professional standards. NAVR fully supports these measures, as they align with our mission to promote

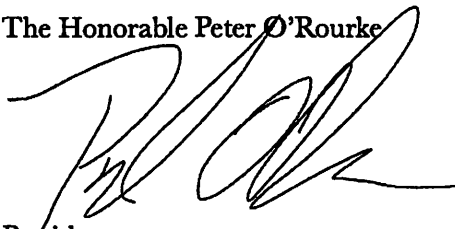
transparency, ethical practices, and the highest levels of professionalism in services provided to Veterans.

In conclusion, HB 2214 represents a significant step forward in protecting those who have served our country. On behalf of NAVR and the millions of Veterans we represent, I urge you to support this bill and ensure its swift passage.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to the well-being of Kansas Veterans.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Peter O'Rourke

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter O'Rourke', written over the typed name.

President

National Association for Veteran Rights (NAVR)

## **Organizations SUPPORTING SAVE Act**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 60 Plus Association                     | Governor Mike Huckabee,<br>Former Governor of Arkansas | Project Exodus Relief  |
| AFG Free                                | Heart of an Ace  | React DC   |
| AMAC Action                             | Heartland Institute                                    | Reagan Alumni Association  |
| American Commitment                     | Hispanic Leadership Fund                               | Restore America's Mission  |
| Americans for a Balanced<br>Budget      | Irreverent Warriors                                    | Rule 20  |
| Americans for Liberty &<br>Security     | The Independence Fund<br>Institute for Liberty         | Small Business &<br>Entrepreneurship Council                             |
| Americans for Limited<br>Government     | Joint Operation North Star                             | Special Operations<br>Association of America                             |
| Americans for Tax Reform                | The Last Best Hope on Earth<br>Institute               | Strengthening America for All  |
| Black Veteran Empowerment<br>Council    | The Leadership Institute                               | Task Force Argo<br>Task Force Pineapple                                  |
| Center for a Free Economy               | Less Government  | Taxpayers Protection Alliance  |
| Center for Military Readiness           | The Lifeline Foundation                                | Teamsters - International<br>Brotherhood of Maintenance<br>Way Employees |
| Citizen Outreach                        | Market Institute                                       | Tradition, Family, Property,<br>Inc.                                     |
| Committee to Unleash<br>Prosperity      | The Moral Compass<br>Federation                        | The Veterans Education<br>Project  |
| Consumer Action for a Strong<br>Economy | NMRG Rescue Project<br>Operation 620                   | Vote America First   |
| Defending America<br>Foundation         | Operation Recovery                                     | Ukraine NGO Coordination<br>Network                                      |
| Flanders Fields                         | Ops Sacred Promise                                     |  |
| Freedom & Prosperity Caucus             | Patriotic Veterans                                     |  |
| Freedom Bird Foundation                 | Phyllis Schlafly Eagles                                |  |
| Frontiers of Freedom                    | Project 21   |  |