

Oral opponent testimony before the
Veterans/Military Committee

On

HB 2214 Enacting the safeguarding American veteran empowerment act to limit compensation
for assisting in veteran benefits matters.

By

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 2214. The intent of HB 2214 is to establish some limited guidelines and policies for individuals or companies that charges fees to “assist” or “consult” a veteran with filing their benefit claim.

The fact remains these individuals are still “Claim Predators”. This practice is illegal. These individuals or companies are not Veterans Administration accredited, they are not required to follow the established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, their advice could be misleading and/or fraudulent. Too often when veterans seek the help for filing claims of unaccredited individuals the fees that are charged are excessive and sometimes hidden from the veteran seeking help to file. This legislation does not meet the requirements established by the Veterans Administration.

Veterans Administration regulations are clear about representation: “No individual may assist claimants in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for VA benefits as an agent or attorney unless he or she has **first been accredited by VA for such purpose.**” 38 CFR 14.629 (b).

Filing a VA claim without prior Veterans Administration accreditation is a crime.

Charging a fee to file a Veterans Administration claim without VA accreditation is a crime.

HB 2214 does not help protect the veterans of Kansas from being taken advantage of by unethical and unprofessional Claim Predators. We encourage you to not to pass out HB 2214 for consideration by the full House of Representatives.