

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

David Kennedy, VFW Service Officer

February 6, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 2214. My name is David Kennedy, I serve as a Veterans Service Office in Wichita, Kansas. 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.

I have been approved by the VA’s Office of General Counsel. As an accredited agent I agree to follow the Standards of Conduct established by the Veterans Administration.

This legislation does not meet the requirements established by the Veterans Administration.

Veterans Administration regulations are clear about representation: “No individual my 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. I encourage you to not to pass out HB 2214 for consideration by the full House of Representatives.