

Oral proponent testimony before the  
Veterans/Military Committee  
On  
HB 2213 Prohibiting certain conduct and improper collection of veterans benefits fees.

By  
David Kennedy, VFW Service Officer  
February 6, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 2213. My name is David Kennedy, I serve as a Veterans Service Office processing veterans claims for disability. I'm an accredited service officer. I received my accreditation from the Veterans Administration.

The intent of HB 2213 is to prevent individuals or a company that charges fees to "assist" or "consult" a veteran with filing their benefit claim. As a service officer I charge no fees to veterans for my services.

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 VA.

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

The Veterans Administration refers to non-accredited individuals as "Claim Sharks" or "Claim Predators"

These unaccredited individuals use unethical practices. Some of the unethical practices used include:

Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.

Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.

Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like ebenefits or VA.org.

Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.

Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

These individuals charge veterans up to \$20,000 or more for filing a claim.

HB 2213 will help protect the veterans of Kansas from being taken advantage of by unethical and unprofessional Claim Predators. Your support of HB 2213 is appreciated.