



## Governor's Military Council

LTG(R) PERRY L. WIGGINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

13 February 2025

To: The Honorable Mike Thompson, Chairperson, House Committee on Veterans and Military

From: Lieutenant General (Retired) Perry Wiggins, Executive Director, Governor's Military Council

Subject: Proponent to House Bill 2256

Chairman Thompson and members of the House Committee on Veterans and Military, I am Lieutenant General (Retired) Perry Wiggins, Executive Director, Governor's Military Council, State of Kansas, submitting written testimony on behalf of Military Commanders stationed in the Great State of Kansas who are charged with taking care of our Nation's treasure our Sons and Daughters who serve in the United States Armed Forces and their families. I want to thank the Chairman and the Committee for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2256. A bill that recognizes the incredible contributions our military spouses make in our communities and the State of Kansas.

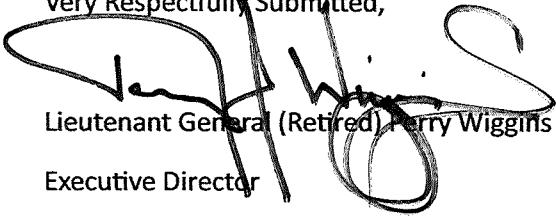
The Governor's Military Council serves as a key partner with local communities, administration, key legislators, members of the Kansas congressional delegation, key businesses, military leaders, and the Department of Defense to pursue initiatives to enhance the quality of life for our service men and women, veterans, and their families.

I have had the distinct honor and privilege to wear the cloth of a United States Army Officer in service to this nation for 33 years. As the Commanding General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas I have witnessed first-hand the Herculean efforts of military spouses who volunteer thousands of hours of their personal time to serve others. In many instances their selfless service extends beyond the gates of their installations and into the communities in which they live. To accurately measure the impact that they have made to the state is a difficult task but it would suffice to say that has been significant. As Executive Director of the Governor's Military Council in Kansas, I have prioritized and championed initiatives that highlight the contributions of those who go above and beyond to improve the quality of lives of our service members, veterans, and their families. Your committee through House Bill 2256 does just that. Simply put, your bill will enable the State of Kansas to embrace and recognize those military spouses who go above and beyond in service to others in the Great State of Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of House Bill 2256. Kansas is widely seen across the country as a military-friendly state. Passage of House Bill 2256 will not only serve to promote Kansas

as a state that keenly understands key and essential role our military spouses play but also created the "Order of the Sunflower", a public recognition of their service to others and the state.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Wiggins", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

Lieutenant General (Retired) Perry Wiggins

Executive Director

Governor's Military Council

State of Kansas