



House Bill 2185
Written Proponent Testimony

March 5, 2025

Michael Kelly

President

Kansas Council of Chapters, MOAA

- **Chairman Erickson and Members of the Committee, I respectfully stand in support of House Bill 2185 to expand the EMERGE program to more areas of advanced academic study.**
- **This bill improves a key tool needed to recruit and retain better educated military professionals in the Kansas National Guard.**
- **The profession of arms requires highly educated members for complex planning, as well as acquisition, operation, and sustainment of high technology equipment and facilities needed to preserve our national security.**
- **Professions ancillary to the use of military force such as medical and legal professions also require advanced degrees. HB 2185 will support studies by motivated members of the Kansas National Guard to improve their mental capabilities, achieve professional credentialing standards, and thereby better serve the citizens of Kansas and the nation.**
- **Military readiness is improved when troops are led by well-educated officers. Accordingly, this bill supports military readiness.**
- **I strongly urge the committee to support HB 2185.**