

**Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs**

**Wayne Bollig, Director, Veteran Services**

House Commerce committee:

**RE: HB - 2211** – Giving Preference to Disabled Veteran Owned Business.

Chairman Brown and members of the Committee, I am Wayne Bollig, the Director of the Veterans Services for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent of **HB - 2211**

The mission of Veteran Services is to provide advocacy and resources to the veterans of Kansas, their families, and/or their survivors, and to assist them in acquiring and utilizing the benefits to which they are entitled under law, resulting in a better standard of life for those veterans, dependents and survivors. For a veteran who suffers service-connected disability, our Government and a number of states have deemed it our moral obligation to provide the disabled veteran a range of benefits designed to ease the economic and other losses and disadvantages incurred as a consequence of serving his or her country. These benefits include assistance for entering the marketplace and doing business with the government. To achieve that objective, the federal government has established a goal of not less than 3 percent for participation by service-disabled veteran businesses in Federal contracting, and gives agency contracting officers the authority to reserve certain procurements for service-disabled veteran businesses. A number of states have joined the federal government and set aside a percentage of state contracts for Service Connected Veteran Owned Small business in their states. The Kansas Commission on Veterans affairs feels that this bill sends a positive message to those that serve. It shows that Kansas holds their service and sacrifice in high regard.

Our executive director sends his apologies he is unable to be here today due to a previous commitment. He did want me to make the committee aware that we did have one concern and that was concerning lines 21 and 22 of the bill. The issue came up as to what was considered a political subdivision and how it could be accounted for.

Thank you for your time, I will now stand for questions.