

**Senate Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**By Gregg Burden**

**Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs**

**March 7, 2013**

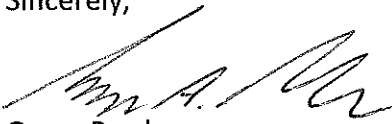
Chairman and members of the committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2077. I am Gregg Burden, Executive Director of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs (KCVA).

There are many Kansas veterans who have received specific training while in the military service that should be able to use that training for their degree or course completion. However, often the veteran is forced to take classes to complete their degree/course programs for which the veteran has already acquired from their time in the military. The veteran must also pay for these classes and expend months of their time that could be utilized as productive service in the Kansas workforce. Instead, they are attending classes of minimal educational benefit and wasting their precious GI-Bill benefits.

The KCVA does support HB 2077 with one exception; line 32 which states "the licensing board under this section may accept." We feel this language would dilute the intent of the legislation since there would be no incentive for licensing bodies to accept the military training. There is a potential financial incentive for the institution of study not to accept the military training and force the veteran to pay or use valuable GI Bill benefits to receive the required credit.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Gregg Burden  
Executive Director  
Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs