

Testimony by Martin Dempsey, 31 January 2013

Kansas House State Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security HB 2078

Mister Chair and committee, thank you for this opportunity to express Department of Defense (DoD) support for the veterans credit House Bill 2077. My name is Martin Dempsey, Department of Defense Regional Liaison for Military Families for the Midwest, working for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Family & Community Policy. It is a pleasure to be here issue today. First off, we thank you for considering HB 2077 so quickly.

Separating service members with emergency services training who provide lifesaving procedure leave the military with documented training and experience that can prepare them for civilian employment; however, this documentation is not always used by state entities to qualify them for licenses required for their occupation or to provide them academic credit. Reported unemployment rates of separating service members that are higher than national averages have brought attention to supporting issues such as expedited licensure and increased academic credit recognition to alleviate this problem.

We are asking legislative leaders to establish policies that ensure separating Service members do not have to repeat requirements completed during their military career to obtain an occupational license.

It is important to us that you know we are not asking for direct licensure if it is not equivalent. In cases where the regulatory agency or board determines partial credit but it saves time and expense and helps get them there, even if not completely, that is what we seek. We only seek credit where credit is due.

A couple of other points to consider: You and I have *already* paid for this veteran's training within the DoD schools and with years of experience while serving our Nation with our *federal* tax dollars.

Thank you for taking up this issue so quickly, and for your consideration. I stand by for any questions you may have.

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