



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 6, 2013

*Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 27
Military Service Scholarship Program*

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Director of Student Financial Assistance

Good morning Chairman Masterson and Members of the Committee. My name is Diane Lindeman and I am the Director of Student Financial Assistance for the Kansas Board of Regents. I am here this morning on behalf of the Board to testify in support of Senate Bill 27 which revises the language of the current Military Service Scholarship Program to update and clarify the eligibility definitions for this scholarship program.

The current Military Service Scholarship Program was placed into law during the 2008 legislative session with the intent to provide returning veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with financial assistance in attending the state universities, technical colleges, community colleges and Washburn University. However, the original language specifically named military operations, such as Noble Eagle, which no longer exists. We are proposing to use general eligibility definitions that can allow scholarships to be available in the future to students who may be in combat operations outside of Iraq and Afghanistan.

To accomplish this goal, please note the change to the definition of an eligible veteran to be those who serviced in "international waters or on foreign soil in support of military operations". In addition, the language of the scholarship was revised to include "any military operation for which the person received hostile fire pay" in order to further define eligible students. These revisions to the language of a "qualified student" were made with the assistance and support of the Adjutant General's Office.

There is no fiscal impact associated with these proposed changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I would be happy to respond to any questions that you may have.

Senate Ways and Means Committee
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