



KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
2800 SOUTHWEST TOPEKA BOULEVARD
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66611

March 10, 2015

Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer
300 SW 10th Avenue
State Capitol Rm 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written remarks.

I respectfully request you take the following written remarks into consideration with regard to House Bill 2228. On behalf of the men and women in the Kansas National Guard, we are mindful of and appreciate the extensive amount of work that has gone into drafting this bill. We appreciate the Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security producing a bill that allows military veterans and more specifically members of the Kansas National Guard, an opportunity to utilize the benefits they have earned in pursuit of a post-secondary education in Kansas.

This bill serves to bring Kansas policy in compliance with recent changes to Section 702 of the Veterans Access Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 and avoids jeopardizing public institutions of higher learning in Kansas' ability to receive VA GI Bill funding after July 1, 2015.

The Kansas Adjutant General's Department would like to lend our support to this bill with one technical enhancement. This is due to the fact, HB2228 as currently written would exclude 90.7% of the members serving in the Kansas National Guard.

There are two statuses under which members serve in the Kansas National Guard. The first is known as full-time active guard reserve (AGR). There are currently 796 members serving in this status in the Kansas National Guard. The second status is known as part-time traditional or m-day. There are currently 6,627 members serving in this status in the Kansas National Guard.

The current total end strength of the Kansas National Guard is 7,423. This number includes both full-time AGR members and part-time traditional members that make up our total current force in Kansas. The current total end strength for our AGR members is 796 or 9.3% of our total force. Therefore, the term "active duty member" when applied to the Kansas National Guard would only apply to approximately 9.3% of our total force.

Because of this distinction, an opportunity to enhance a technical aspect of HB 2228 is as follows:

1. Page 1, Line 7, replace “An active duty member”, with “A current member”.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share my recommendations for technical enhancement of HB 2228. Thank you for your continued support and consideration of this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted by:

MG Lee E. Tafari
The Adjutant General
10 MAR 2015