

Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, Chair

Testimony on Senate Bill 262

Gregg Burden, Director

Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Office

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Chairman Ostmeyer, Committee members and others, thank you for allowing me a brief moment to testify regarding Senate Bill 262, establishing the charitable gaming act. My name is Gregg Burden, and I am the Director for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Office (KCVAO). The KCVAO serves as advocate for the 223,000 veterans, which represents approximately 9% of the State's population. We are charged with operating various programs supporting Kansas veterans, which include Veterans Services, the State Veterans' Cemetery Program and two State veterans' nursing homes.

While the KCVAO has been and continues to be neutral on gaming issues we do hope the committee will take into account the impacts of this bill on veterans and the veteran service organizations that support those veterans.

We would caution that passage of a bill that negatively impacts the veteran service organizations that support veterans in Kansas could potentially have negative impacts on the veterans in our two homes and the VCAP program. All of which receive funds from the AL, VFW, DAV, and their auxiliaries.

While the KCVAO remains neutral on SB 262 we ask that the Committee consider the impact of this bill on Kansas veterans and the veteran service organizations that support them.