

HOUSE BILL No. 2154 TESTIMONY
Presented to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
By Jeff Bond, Assistant Adjutant
THE KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION
March 16, 2015

On behalf of The American Legion Department of Kansas I wish to thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of House Bill 2154.

After the men and women of our armed forces have completed the terms of their service, they enter the civilian workforce at a disadvantage. While a veteran is serving their country, the civilians they will compete for civilian jobs are accumulating the specific academic degrees and/or work experience that they know employers look for on resumes. These veterans may have the skills and experience relevant to the position they are applying for, but many employers are unfamiliar with military duty responsibilities and terminology. This means that many veterans will never make it to an interview, because they don't look good on paper. Veterans' preference does not guarantee a job, nor is it a reward for service. Veterans' preference is about not punishing veterans for choosing to serve their country.

We at the American Legion believe that veterans can make good employees if given a chance. And all Kansans benefit when veterans are hired into a job when they are the most qualified candidate.

The American Legion supports employers that hire veterans and older workers. Every year The Kansas American Legion recognizes employers that hire Kansas veterans, and has resolutions at the national and state level to promote veterans preference in public and private institutions. And for this reason The Kansas American Legion stands in support of House Bill 2154

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.