

Senate Standing Committee on Transportation
Senator Mike Petersen, Chair

Testimony on House Bill 2006
Gregg Burden, Director
Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Office

March 5, 2015

Chairman Petersen, Committee members and others, thank you for allowing me a brief moment to testify regarding House Bill 2006, relating to disabled veterans parking. 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.

Currently K.S.A. 8-161 allows individuals with a disabled veterans license plate to park in any parking space on public or private property which is clearly marked as being reserved for the use of persons with a disability, and to park without charge in any metered zone and be exempt from any time limitation imposed on parking in any zone designated for parking. House Bill 2006 simply adds language allowing these individuals to park without charge in any public parking facility that employs parking attendants in any parking space clearly marked as being reserved for the use of persons with a disability. This will have minimal impact on the parking revenues of these public parking facilities since it is limited to only those veterans with a 50% or greater disability. We are talking about a very limited number of veterans that would be utilizing this benefit at any given time. Staff at the KCVAO have been visiting with veterans and community leaders and have had no negative reaction to this proposed change to K.S.A. 8-161. This bill will have minimal impact on revenues, however, we do feel it would have a positive impact on those disabled veterans that need this benefit the most. Therefore we support this bill and would encourage favorable passage of House Bill 2006.