

## Testimony on House Bill 2070

Senate Committee

Presented by

Cade Rothenberger

Seaman High School

Good afternoon Chairman Petersen and members of the Senate Transportation Committee. My name is Cade Rothenberger. I discovered John Armstrong while working on a project in Civil War class. For this project I chose a Civil War Veteran, conducted research, wrote a short biography, and posted their information on Find a grave. Through my research I found that John Armstrong wasn't just any veteran. I tried to find information from his headstone in Rochester Cemetery, but his headstone only lists his name and death date. I couldn't find much until my class went to the Kansas Archives where I discovered through old newspapers that Armstrong was a abolitionist and was a very important part in the Underground Railroad in Kansas. I also discovered how Armstrong was involved with James Lane and John Brown which sparked my interest to dig deeper. John Armstrong was born in Canada and moved to New York where he started his work as a abolitionist. Armstrong moved to Kansas to make Kansas an anti-slavery state. Armstrong also is credited with getting General James Lane to come to Kansas. At the beginning of the war Armstrong enlisted to fight in the Civil War as a

Union soldier, leaving his home in Topeka to join the 5<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry, Company A according to Kansas, Grand Army of the Republic Post Reports, 1880-1940. He mustered in as a private in 1861 and later became a Lieutenant with General James Lane, Armstrong's company was in multiple battles, including the Battle of Charlot, and the Attack on Helena in Arkansas, which secured eastern Arkansas for the United States, according to Soldiers and Sailors database. I believe that Armstrong was important to Kansas history because of his abolitionist work and involvement in the underground railroad. Thank you for your time.