

## Testimony in support of SB 180

Madam Chair I thank you for the opportunity to be here today and say a few words in favor of SB 180.

22 veterans a day commit suicide.

A healthy diet is a proven way to reduce the risk of falling into this category. We have many veterans in Kansas living off the dollar menu. Veterans can shop tax free if they live near a military post with a commissary. But this only serves a few as many Kansas veterans live in remote areas where they grew up. SB180 would begin to address this issue.

Veterans shouldn't have to shop at the "company store".

There are many veterans from Kansas that desperately want to move back home. SB 180 addresses this. Kansas needs this bill and many more like it.

At a time when people are looking for a nice place to live, I urge you to move SB 180 forward. Let's make Kansas just a little bit sweeter of a deal than moving to our border states.

The Department of Defense put recruiting offices in rural Kansas for many years. They harvested some of the Nation's finest.

Tax free commerce on military bases only creates an uneven playing field on many levels. Veterans should be free to live anywhere in the nation without the worry of tax rates.

Rural Health Care and Representation to Apply for Benefits is also a hardship for rural Kansas veterans and something SB 180 will raise awareness of.

SB180 goes a long way towards reducing the 22 veteran a day suicide rate. I am humbled to be in the same room with so many people trying to reduce this unacceptable statistic. If we lost 22 service men & women in combat every day there would be outrage.

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