



January 24, 2024

To: Representative Tarwater, House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

From: Nichole E. Inskeep, National Guard Association of Kansas, Legislative Chair

RE: HB 2544

The National Guard Association of the Kansas is comprised of commissioned officers of the Kansas National Guard, both Officer and Warrant Officer. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard – Kansas is comprised of all enlisted members. We advocate on behalf of our members, aiming to communicate our message to continuously improve our relevance, readiness, modernization and quality of life at both the state and national levels; all while promoting our rich heritage as the nation's first military organization. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on the importance of HB2544 to our members.

The Air and Army National Guard of Kansas are always ready to serve when called upon by the Governor of Kansas or by the President of the United States for a wide variety of situations. Guardsmen stand ready to respond to natural disasters – both winter and summer, tornados and winter storms, they respond to pandemics, and the calls from our nation to deploy to places like Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Poland, just to name a few. It is imperative that we retain our talent in the force, and our talented individuals in our state's workforce.

HB 2544 would be a positive step towards enabling our Guardsmen's employers to retain and encourage continued service of these amazing men and women. This bill would provide much needed assistance for the employers that have Guardsmen with requirements to serve. Our amazing men and women bring skills and training from their service, but they also provide much needed skills through their service, that are greatly missed when they leave the service due to pressures and needs of civilian employment. This bill would incentivize and provide some financial relief to fill any needs that might exist.

I respectfully request your support of HB 2544. Thank you so much for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nichole E. Inskeep', with a long, sweeping underline.

Nichole E. Inskeep  
National Guard Association of Kansas  
Legislative Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Abel', written in a cursive style.

Troy Abel  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard - Kansas  
President

125 SE Airport Drive  
Topeka, Kansas 66619  
Phone: 785-862-1066