

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2544

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I stand before you not only as a legislator but also as someone who has proudly served in the Kansas National Guard, both Army and Air, for 20 years and I urge you to take the time to read my testimony.

During my service tenure, I have been deployed multiple times and have completed many lengthy temporary duty trainings across the country (so many times I have lost track.) My experiences mobilizing and serving have deeply ingrained in me an understanding of the challenges faced by our states fighting men and women, particularly the difficulty of balancing service commitments with work and family life.

House Bill 2544 is a critical tool for individual service members in addressing these indescribable challenges. This bill proposes tax credits for employers who hire National Guard members and for the guardsmen themselves. As someone who has experienced firsthand the strain and stressors that serving in the National Guard can place on families. Additionally, as an employer, I acutely understand the critical nature that these highly talented employees can be within small business, and I can attest to the fact that this stress is a major factor in decisions regarding continued military service. The support that this bill offers is not just financial; it is a recognition of the sacrifices made by our guardsmen, their families and the business leaders that employ them.

The incentives provided by House Bill 2544 will play a vital role in National Guard recruiting and retention. The current system often forces guardsmen to choose between their duty to the state and their personal and professional lives. By easing this burden, we are not only supporting our guardsmen but also ensuring the strength and readiness of our National Guard units. With world conflict perpetually on the horizon, this additional resource serves everyone impacted in the chain of events surrounding an activation.

I urge my colleagues to support House Bill 2544. It's more than a bill; it's a commitment to our guardsmen, their families, and our state's security. Let's stand together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who serve us so faithfully.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Rep. Adam Turk