

HB2036 Testimony

Proponent

Geoff Poitras

Greetings,

I'm a 20 year retired Army Veteran with 24 months overseas combat service. I am VA rated 90% disabled, soon to be 100% disabled. Having served my country selflessly, I have sustained lifelong injuries, both mental and physical that significantly impact my ability to maximize my earning potential as compared to my peers. I have physical limitations where I sometimes require assistance from my children and neighbors. At the age of 44, these conditions, I expect, will worsen with time, especially the physical conditions I live with. As such, my ability to increase my wages decreases, and I'd sure like to have a comfortable quality of life.

A property tax exemption in my case is a significant factor to consider when deciding where to reside. Currently, 18 states offer a 100% tax exemption benefits for disabled veterans benefits. Within 2 years time, it's my plan to relocate to a state that appreciates my residency in this unique way.

By passing this bill, and granting veterans this benefit, I believe it will be a profound testament to how the state of Kansas appreciates its veteran's service. Our country needs young men and women to volunteer to serve while their hearts, minds and bodies are in tip top shape! Let's be sure our state is here to welcome them home, especially those who were injured and now permanently disabled. It's a small price to Kansas for what we suffer with on a daily basis.

Thank you!

Geoff Poitras
Jefferson County