

Subject: HB2036 Written Testimony

Dear Senate Tax Committee Members, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2036, which proposes a property tax exemption for disabled Veterans. As a Veteran, I believe this legislation is crucial for recognizing the sacrifices made by our Veterans and providing much-needed financial relief to those with permanent disabilities incurred in service.

HB 2036 is an essential step in acknowledging and honoring the service of disabled Veterans. I witnessed a great turnout during the House Tax Committee hearing, showing strong support for this bill. I urge the Senate Tax Committee to carry this momentum forward during the upcoming hearing.

Here is mine and my husband's story:

I Phyllis (Roberts) Fitzgerald served 21 years in the Army, my husband Keith Fitzgerald served 22 years in the Army. We are both Combat Veterans of the 1st Infantry Division having served in Iraq during Desert Storm. We are both disabled Veterans. We both volunteered and raised our right hands and solemnly swore the following Oath in our respective places where we were raised.

I "Phyllis Roberts" do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

At the age of 17, I volunteered for the United States Army with my parent's signature. I am proud to have chosen to serve our Country in the United States Army.

My husband and I met while we were both serving overseas, we married, had two children that we raised in the Army through War, deployments, permanent change of stations, missing many days, weeks, and months from our children.

But we still chose to continue to serve in the United States Army.

We are not from Kansas, but we chose to return here after we both retired. We have no family ties here, but we came back because we like the area, the people, our community and we wanted to finish raising our children here. Who both went on to serve in the military as well.

The passing of HB2036 is important to Disabled Veterans and to the State of Kansas. Many Veterans and Disabled Veterans stay in Kansas, but many also leave to other states that offer better benefits to Veterans and Disabled Veterans.

The passing of this bill could make a big difference in the lives of Disabled Veterans and Veterans. When we all came in the military, we volunteered to serve (Desert Storm, Balkans, Peacetime), some were drafted (Vietnam), some didn't come home from war, many came home from war with physical and mental wounds. People who serve our military made a selfless choice to serve and protect our Country, protect our freedom and the freedom of our future generations.

You all have the opportunity to make a huge difference to so many. Please fight for our disabled Veterans and all Veterans and pass HB2036.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Fitzgerald
CW3 Retired United States Army
Junction City, KS

The proposed property tax exemptions not only acknowledge the sacrifices of Veterans, but also contribute to retaining them within the state of Kansas. For those with permanent disabilities resulting from their dedicated service, this bill offers significant financial relief.

I kindly request you to stand with our Veterans by supporting HB 2036. Your advocacy can make a substantial difference in the lives of those who have served our country.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Fitzgerald
CW3 Retired United States Army