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PAT PROCTOR

41ST DISTRICT

LEAVENWORTH, FORT LEAVENWORTH & KICKAPOO

March 6, 2024

Chairwoman Molly Baumgardner
Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Madam Chairwoman:

Thank you for allowing me to appear in strong support of HB 2567, creating the EMERGE scholarship program to help Kansas Guardsmen and women pursue master's degrees at our state universities.

When I am not serving the people of Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth, and Kickapoo here in the Kansas House, I am a professor in the homeland security program at Wichita State University. At the University, I teach a history class that is cross-listed as a graduate history course and a military science course for the WSU Army ROTC cadets. In this capacity, I have had a great opportunity to meet and get to know cadets who are receiving the Kansas National Guard's Minuteman scholarships.

This is a great program and a great recruiting tool for The Kansas Guard. But it does not address retention or continuing education.

Earlier today, I attended an AUSA breakfast in my district at which the Adjutant General of the State of Kansas, Brig. Gen. Venerdi, talked at length about the issues the Guard has with recruiting, and the work he does in trying to retain Guardsmen and women. He cited this bill specifically as a great tool to retain servicemembers.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and hope that you will pass it out favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Proctor", written in a cursive style.

Pat Proctor, PhD.
Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
State Representative
Kansas House District #41
Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth, and Kickapoo