

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7396
adam.turk@house.ks.gov

6926 ROUNDTREE STREET
SHAWNEE, KANSAS 66226



ADAM TURK
117TH DISTRICT

Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 2567.

My name is Adam Turk and I Represent the 117th district and I am a proponent for HB 2567, also known as the EMERGE bill. This bill aims to provide tuition assistance to the dedicated members of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard.

The National Guard plays a pivotal role in our state's safety and well-being, with guardsmen routinely called upon to respond to emergencies, natural disasters and times of war. Providing these brave men and women of our communities with tuition assistance is not just a way to say "thank you" for your sacrifices; it is an additional force multiplier, further enhancing each individual soldier or airmen's overall military effectiveness. A quote that has truly resonated with me was provided as testimony in the House hearing and I am compelled to share it with you again to emphasis my message. The quote says: "A nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its laws made by cowards and its wars fought by fools."

Education is a powerful recruiting tool to this generation's warfighters. The days of flag waving patriotism are fading with the memories of those falling towers. Saying this isn't meant as a good or bad thing, it's simply a fact. As leaders we must adapt to the current needs of the force, not necessarily the needs we would *like* to see but the needs that are presented at this moment. As we continue down this national change in age demographics we must adapt with it and this bill does that.

As the military continues to roll out additional education requirements for rank advancement this program will also serve as a tool for military leaders to retain the best and brightest among the ranks, further enhancing team effectiveness. Advanced education clearly offers numerous long-term benefits, and by supporting this bill, we are acknowledging the twin goals of rewarding service and promoting education. Those who serve in the National Guard often do so at great personal cost, including time away from their families, careers, and educational aspirations. By providing tuition assistance, we are ensuring that they have the resources they need to continue their education and, by extension, improve their quality of life.

Additionally, this bill would help align Kansas with other states that have already recognized the importance of such programs as a means of recruiting and retaining outstanding individuals in the National Guard. The military is a great source of pride for our state and its members only enhance our workforce and communities. An investment in our Military is a direct investment into each of our districts!

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In conclusion, I urge you to support Kansas House Bill 2567 and to recognize the long-term value this program will serve—not just for our service members, but for the broader Kansas community. With your backing, we can ensure that those who have dedicated themselves to the protection and service of our state are afforded the opportunities they so rightfully deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rep. Adam Turk

District 117 | Shawnee, Desoto, Lenexa, Eudora & Rural DgCo

Kansas House of Representatives