

STATE OF KANSAS

VIRGIL PECK, JR.
STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 15

P.O. BOX 299
HAVANA, KANSAS 67347



STATE CAPITOL
300 SW 10TH AVE.
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7742
virgil.peck@senate.ks.gov

SENATE CHAMBER

Proponent Testimony for SB 180

Thank you Chairman Tyson and Committee Members for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of SB 180.

SB 180 is a simple, straight-forward, bipartisan bill. It provides an opportunity for the Kansas Legislature to say a big thank you to some of our brave men and women who have stood up for our American freedoms.

Passage of SB 180 would give a sales tax exemption to Kansans who are 100% disabled military veterans when they purchase groceries, personal hygiene products and household cleaning supplies in Kansas.

I would like to see us do a lot more for our military veterans – especially for those who are disabled due to their service in the US armed forces. Not only would SB 180 say thank you to disabled veterans, it would also incentivize persons close to our state lines to do all their shopping in Kansas, rather than in other states.

Frankly, it is embarrassing, as a Kansas legislator, that we (Kansas) don't do very much for our disabled veterans. Our neighbors to the south (Oklahoma), provide a total tax exemption for disabled military veterans in their state – these veterans pay no taxes. If they can do it, we can do it!

I disagree with the fiscal note. It reads in part: "*The Department of Revenue estimates that SB 180 would decrease state revenues by \$5.5 million in FY 2022 and \$13.3 million in FY 2023.*" That is absurd! Sadly, many of the disabled veterans in Kansas don't even earn \$35,000 – the maximum allowable purchases in SB 180.

Let's say a family of four (many disabled vet families are just two people) spends \$1,200 per month on food, hygiene and cleaning supplies. The state tax would be \$936 per year. Take that times the number of disabled vets in Kansas, 5842, and you get closer to \$5.5 million annually – not \$13 million.

I ask for your support of SB 180. I'll stand for questions at the appointed time.

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