

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PAT PROCTOR
41ST DISTRICT
LEAVENWORTH AND FORT LEAVENWORTH

March 8, 2022

Re: Support for House Bill 2458

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee in support of House Bill 2458.

On October 8, 2006, Army PFC Shane Austin of Edgerton, Kansas was killed by an enemy grenade while serving in Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment. For his heroism, PFC Austin was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

I did not have the honor of knowing PFC Austin. But I have gotten to know him through his mother, Debbie Austin. Debbie works tirelessly for our veterans and to recognize the fallen. I met her through her work with Wreaths Across America at the Leavenworth National Cemetery, campaigning for donations to ensure that thousands of veterans are honored each year. She was also instrumental in the building of the Gold Star Families memorial in Olathe and has led the fight to get a Gold Star memorial on the grounds of the State Capitol.

When I heard that Representative Collins was sponsoring a bill to recognize PFC Austin with a highway designation, I was eager to sign on as a cosponsor. This is an important way to recognize the service not just of PFC Austin but of every man and woman who has served their nation. And this designation will be especially significant to the many friends of the Austin family in Edgerton.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to answering your questions.

Pat Proctor
State Representative
House District 41

Enclosure: House Committee Testimony by Ms. Debbie Austin