



Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas 125 SE Airport Rd, Topeka, KS 66619

January 23, 2023

To: Representative Adam Smith, and Members of House Taxation Committee

From: Eugene Bradley, Legislative Liaison, EANGKS

RE: HB 2011

I and the members of Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas want to thank the 30 Representatives for sponsoring this piece of legislation. I also want to thank the Taxation Committee for having a hearing on HB 2011. It is the third year in a row EANGKS has been able to provide testimony on a bill in this committee, it is a clear indication that this committee and the Kansas Legislature has the interest of the National Guard and the Military as a whole, in mind.

The purpose of this legislation is to make Kansas a more desirable state for military service members to call home through lowering the taxes for those who serve. It is standard practice for active-duty service members to make a state their residence because of a more friendly tax rate. Regionally, Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Oklahoma exempt all military pay from state taxes. Colorado also has a stipulation for residents stationed overseas. My association believes that Kansas should continue its proud legacy of supporting the military and pass this tax exemption on all military pay, for all branches and their reserve components.

We can not know how many of those serving within Kansas would switch their residencies to Kansas for this benefit. 17 of the 20 States already with this benefit see over 110% DOD residents compared to those actually stationed in state. This would equal a bump of close to 3,000 DOD personnel as residents. 3,000 additional residents that would also bring spousal income and family residents along with their numbers. Current statistics show over 50% of the military is married and 37% have children.

For enlisted guardsmen, it is ensuring our members retain more of their military income to guarantee they and their families are ready for when they go out the door at a moment's notice. The DOD instated a new Basic Needs Allowance recognizing the portion of our force that lives well below poverty level. With inflation, the rising costs of living expenses, we live in very turbulent times, and every piece of stability that we can give our Kansas Guard families is another step toward keeping qualified and experienced guardsmen in the fold.

This legislation aims to support our young military families, especially those Kansans that join and are stationed at other bases around the country. The average guardsmen brings in roughly \$18,000 a year. That leads to roughly a savings of \$500 for the average guardsmen and their family. While some may say that is not a lot of relief for the times we live in, it is a positive step, and for many that \$500 is a big deal, a savings that they can invest in their families with. \$500 that they can spend to ensure they are food secure, that they have the gas needed to drive across the state for their drills, or \$500 a year to enjoy the time that they have at home while not deployed, or serving the state during the next natural disaster.

It is with great pride that I am able to be here today standing as a proponent of this bill, representing the Enlisted Association made up of military members that this legislation would serve.

Respectfully,

Eugene Bradley
President, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas
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