



Kaw Valley Chapter Military Officers Association of America Testimony for Senate Bill 136



Dear Senator and Members of the Committee,

I am Major Sheli Sweeney (Ret.), Legislative Liaison for the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the Kaw Valley Chapter (KVC). The MOAA-KVC actively serves as an advocate for proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services.

To that end, the KVC Legislative Committee maintains coordination with local veteran service organizations (VSO), the Kansas State Legislature, and our Congressional delegation to advocate on behalf of military members and their families. To effectively do this, the KVC has been involved with development of common issues and recommendations at the local level. One of our legislative priorities this year is:

*- **Request that the Kansas Department of Motor Vehicle depict veterans or military member status on driver licenses.** This can have the impact of saving time and money for veterans, as they can easily show their status when asked. They may also be able to gain discounts from businesses that do so for military members.*

That is why we support passage of **SB 136**, a bill which allows a voluntary designation as a military member or veteran on the Kansas Driver's License or on the Kansas valid state identification card. Such designation can be used by the state for statistical purposes—such as identifying populations of military and service members in the state, thereby making it possible to match up services to military members by their location.

Additionally, such designation may allow businesses and others to easily identify a military member or veteran, making it easier for the veteran to obtain any discounts, benefits or other that an individual business may wish to afford.

This bill, we believe, increases the opportunities to obtain very useful statistics for services for health care, education and other service providers to identify issues, gaps and concerns of veterans in the community. It also allows service members to self-identify and gain access to discounts in their communities.

Please consider passage of **SB 136**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself at shelisweeney@hotmail.com / 785.213.9053 or President Ray Rhodd at rhoddr1@aol.com / 785-640-8751.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR KANSAS MILITARY MEMBERS AND FAMILIES!