

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Ponka-We Victors
Representative, 103rd District

Kansas Veterans & Military Committee
Representative Les Osterman, Chair

Mr. Chairman Osterman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2147. Native Americans have a long history of serving in the military and have a higher rate of military service than any other ethnic group in the nation. Even before being considered citizens of their Native homelands, they have proudly served America and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces today.

From 1977 to 2001, Native American service members who were domiciled on Indian land experienced state income tax being illegally withheld from their paychecks. Under federal law, Native American individual military service members domiciled on Indian land are exempt from state income tax being withheld from their military pay. This has happened for 24 years, and even took place when military service members were stationed across the world. These men and woman, proudly serving their country should not have come home to a problem with their state income taxes being illegally withheld.

Other states across the nation have taken steps to correct this mistake. Both New Mexico and Arizona have passed legislation to return monies to the veterans. All I am requesting for is a study to look further into this issue. In closing, I hope you will help our Native American veterans of Kansas by supporting a study to correct this situation. Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ponka-We Victors". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ponka-We Victors, District 103