

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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DAVID W. FRENCH
40TH DISTRICT

February 11, 2021

Kansas House of Representatives
Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

The Honorable Chairman Lonnie Clark and Committee Members.

I would like to ask that you support HB 2020 that would allow the Kansas Department of Veterans Affairs to request authorization to have a state-run soldier's home in Northeast Kansas. We have several VA facilities in the area, but the only state soldier's homes are in Dodge City and Winstead. These are a considerable distance from the majority of our military veterans in the Northeast. Those two homes serve the veterans in those areas very well but there is a growing need in the Northeast part of the state.

We do have the Eisenhower Veterans Affairs Center in Leavenworth (and my district), but the VA has cut back on the housing for long-term veteran care. Many of the old dormitories are sitting empty or used for public housing. This is not because of a lack of requirement for veteran housing in the area. These were mainly caused by cuts in the VA budget over the last few years. To understand the true need in the area, all one must do is visit downtown Leavenworth after about 7:00 pm and you will find veterans walking the streets, and worse, living there. Our Veterans deserve more; they have earned more!

Thank you for your consideration of passing HB 2020 out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. French". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Representative David French
District #40