



SB58 Proponent Testimony

Kansas Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America offers testimony in support of SB58. Passage of SB58 into law would support 100% service connected disabled veterans by reducing their sales tax burden for nearly all purchases. The provisions of this bill will recognize the sacrifice of those veterans and their unremarried surviving spouses.

Part 4 of Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations explains the meaning of a 100% disability rating. "The percentage ratings represent as far as can practicably be determined the average impairment in earning capacity resulting from such diseases and injuries and their residual conditions in civil occupations."

There are over 5.4 million disabled veterans in our nation and about 45,300 in Kansas. Nationwide, over 1.1 million veterans have severe illnesses or injuries and have been rated service connected at 100%. Based on the most recent demographic data about 9,260 Kansans are 100% service-connected veterans. These veterans have placed service above self and sacrificed in the line of duty for our national interests and to protect our Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic. Commendably, SB58 shows tangible respect for their selflessness.

While this bill is welcome and should be passed, some veterans are rated 100% by the Secretary of their military department under Title 10 U.S. Code Chapter 61 authority. Kansas should recognize these Title 10 Chapter 61 100% service-connected veterans as they have the same status under federal law as service-connected veterans whose disability evaluation were administered solely under the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kelly

State Legislative Chair
Kansas Council of Chapters

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