



The National Guard Association of Kansas

Testimony for the Kansas House of Representatives Committee on Education

08 February 2018

MAJ Nicky Inskeep, NGAKS

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the committee: good morning and thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I am Major Nicky Inskeep with the National Guard Association of Kansas. I am the Legislative Chair for the Association and a member of the Kansas National Guard.

The Kansas National Guard Education Assistance Program provides scholarships for Soldiers and Airmen of the Kansas National Guard to attend Kansas colleges and universities. The Education Assistance Program covered 53% of the total cost for the in-state tuition in 2017.

The National Guard Association of Kansas is supportive of House Bill 2541, as it makes the Kansas National Guard Education Assistance Program a more effective program for our Soldiers and Airmen. The new language clearly states who is eligible to use the program and allows members of the Kansas National Guard to use the benefit, pending they are in good standing.

Having used state tuition assistance as a young enlisted Soldier, I can attest to the value it has added our units. As a Commander, I repeatedly had the opportunity to counsel Soldiers within my formation. It was my job to ensure they understood the requirements to remain in good standing, so as to receive this benefit. This benefit greatly contributes to the sustainment of our Kansas Guard. This education is critical in our recruiting and retention success. It allows our Soldiers and Airmen to be more educated, which enhances their performance within our formations. This benefit keeps talented Soldiers and Airmen in our state and attending colleges and universities within our borders. This adds value not only to our formations, but also to our communities across the great state of Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration of our position, and as always *Thank You* for your ongoing support of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Kansas National Guard! I am available at the appropriate time to answer your questions.

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