



Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas
125 SE Airport Rd, Topeka, KS 66619

January 27th, 2024

To: Representative Adam Thomas, and Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Troy Abel, President, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas (EANGKS)

RE: HB 2567

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas (EANGKS) is made up of currently serving and retired enlisted members of the Kansas National Guard. Legislative Advocacy is one of many ways EANGKS serves members of the Guard. The mission of EANGKS is to promote and advance the status, welfare, and professionalism of members of the Kansas National Guard, its retirees, and their families.

The educational assistance that would be provided to members of the Kansas National Guard that are proposed in HB2567 would greatly enhance the ability to recruit and retain quality guard men and women. The opportunity to pursue a Graduate Degree at no cost is an outstanding recruiting incentive. HB2567 also would serve as a powerful retention incentive as well. The demand of graduate level courses makes it difficult to find time to hold down a job, keep up with course work, and fulfill training requirements for National Guard Members. Relieving the financial burden would allow students to work less hours and allow time for both course work and their National Guard Requirements. This is often the tipping point for guardsmen who are considering graduate school as to whether they will remain in the Guard or not.

HB2567 would also encourage those already in the guard who have been considering a graduate degree to go ahead and pursue it. This would result in more highly educated Kansas National Guardsmen, and increase the effectiveness of those who are called to respond to disasters or protect our National Security.

EANGKS strongly supports HB2567. We firmly believe it is a wise investment in the citizens of Kansas who have sworn to protect and defend our state and nation, and that ALL citizens of Kansas would benefit from the return on investment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony. I would also like to thank all of you for your service to our great state, and your support of past and present guardsmen and their families.

Respectfully,

Troy Abel

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