



**House Committee on Taxation
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2011
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Monday, January 20, 2023

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bills 2011, which exempts active military personnel from state income taxes.

The Kansas Chamber has launched our Military and Veterans Affairs Council to support the great military installations we have in the state. Additionally, an objective of our council is to retain retiring servicemen and women for employment opportunities in the state.

Based on information available a military benefits website, 12 states currently exempt all military income (plus another eight states with no income tax), including our neighbors to the east and south. Kansas exempts some active-duty military income, and retirement income appears to be exempt as well. HB 2011 takes a positive step to benefit our country's best by fully exempting personal income from taxation.

Military personnel likely pay income taxes based on their state of residence. If that's the case, those taxes are not paid to Kansas and therefore there would be no cost of such a policy change. This could encourage individuals to change their residency to Kansas and possibly stay here when they retire from service to work for Kansas businesses.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2011, and I'd be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.