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January 10, 2024

Kansas Senate Tax Chair
Senator Caryn Tyson
Caryn.Tyson@senate.ks.gov

Representative Pat Proctor
Pat.proctor@house.ks.gov

Dear Senator Tyson,

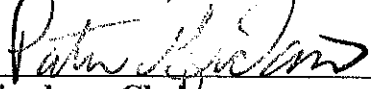
The Board of County Commissioners of Geary County is writing in support of House Bill No. 2036 as Amended by the House Committee of the Whole. Geary County is a proud veteran community that sits adjacent to Fort Riley, Kansas, home of the First Infantry Division. The County Commission believes that HB 2036 as amended by HCW is an impactful and effective legislative measure to honor our neighbors and constituents who have sacrificed so much.

Geary County is currently home to a veteran population of over 10,000 citizens. Of those 10,000 veterans, 5,142 are disabled, making up 12.61% of our total population. We are grateful that so many veterans choose to call Geary County home. Geary County supports House Bill 2036 as amended by HCW as it honors our disabled veterans and safeguards all of our citizens from the disproportionate burden that the original HB 2036, as introduced, placed on counties with large disabled veteran populations. The proposed "Property Tax Reimbursement Fund" is necessary as an offset for counties with a high percentage of disabled veterans. The Geary County Finance Director estimated a loss of over 3.1 million dollars annually to the Geary County tax base without the "Property Tax Reimbursement Fund". Geary County's tax levy would have to increase at least 10 mills to compensate for the estimated loss of over 3.1 million dollars without the "Property Tax Reimbursement Fund".

Geary County has a population of approximately 35,691. Without reimbursement from the "Property Tax Reimbursement Fund" our local tax base would be decimated. Geary County has the highest disabled veteran population by percentage in the state. Geary County supports HB 2036 as amended by the House Committee of the Whole as a wonderful way to thank our veterans who call Kansas home and encourage future veterans to do the same. As currently amended HB

2036 would also safeguard our non-veteran population from a disproportionate tax burden as a community with a high percentage of veterans. The Board of County Commissioners of Geary County is proud to support HB 2036 as amended by HCW to honor our disabled veterans while simultaneously protecting citizens from an impossible tax burden.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GEARY COUNTY, KANSAS**

By 
Trish Giordano, Chairman

By 
Keith Ascher, Commissioner

By 
Alex Tyson, Commissioner