

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PAT PROCTOR
41ST DISTRICT
LEAVENWORTH AND FORT LEAVENWORTH

February 15, 2021

Re: Support for House Bill 2090

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee in support of House Bill 2090.

This bill would allow service members, whether in the active or reserve components, to retain their positions in state government, whether as employees or as officers, while deployed for active military service. This bill also clarifies the mechanism for temporary replacement of these servicemembers.

In 1941, in the opening days of World War II, many members of the Kansas State Government, presumably including members of this body, left those civilian positions, donned uniforms and took up arms, and traveled to the far corners of the Earth to defend liberty.

That Legislature made provisions that Kansas State Government employees and elected officials could return to those positions after their military service had ended.

A great deal has changed since 1941, and this statute seeks to update the law passed then to reflect the present day.

First, when this bill was passed, there were only three services, the Army, the Navy, and the Marines. This bill updates the statute to cover the Air Force and Space Force. It also makes explicit that the National Guard and Air Guard are covered by this statute.

We are also a much more litigious nation than we were in 1941. So this bill clarifies the mechanisms by which one declares that they are temporarily vacating their position and points to other areas of Kansas Statute to highlight the mechanisms that should be used to temporarily fill that vacancy.

During my 25 years of service, including two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, I had the honor to serve alongside many members of the National Guard and Air Guard activated for military service. There are many worries with which servicemembers have to contend on the battlefield. They do not need to be worried by whether those they serve here in Kansas will be

properly served in their absence or whether their positions will be waiting for them when they return.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to answering your questions.

Pat Proctor
State Representative
House District 41