

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND  
SECURITY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 P.M. on February 6, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative L. Candy Ruff- excused  
Representative Bob Bethell- excused  
Representative Dick Kelsey- excused  
Representative Kenny Wilk- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research  
Betty Caruthers, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Goico  
Ken Stodgell, VFW State Legislative Chairman  
Diane Duffey, Vice President of Finance, Board of Regents

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Goico moved, seconded by Representative Goyle for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security held on January 30, 2007, January 31, 2007, and February 1, 2007 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **HB 2209 - Scholarships for Military Service in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

Chairman Myers recognized Art Griggs, Revisor to give an explanation of the bill. The bill applies to State institutions and applies to anyone who has graduated from a Kansas high school with at least a 90 day military service in Iraq or Afghanistan beginning after 9/11/01.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Goico who gave testimony as a proponent on the bill. This bill intends to honor returning Kansans who have actively served for at least 90 days before the service benefits would apply. He stated that this would apply to high school graduates or those who have received a GED. Questions centered around this vs. the GI Bill and whether there would be an overlap. There was a recommendation made regarding the State funding covering what the Federal Government funding would not. Wording changes were recommended to cover those who may become wounded thereby not being able to fulfill the full 90 days.

Chairman Myers recognized Ken Stodgell for testimony as a proponent for the bill. (Attachment 1) He strongly gave the VFW's endorsement to the bill. He believes this bill would help assure Kansas to have a strong work force and provide a higher quality of life.

Chairman Myers recognized Diane Duffey who gave testimony from a neutral standpoint. (Attachment 2) There was a correction made to the submitted testimony which is as follows: Paragraph 2 after Afghanistan put a period and delete 'and their spouses and dependents.' Also in paragraph 2 delete the entire last sentence. Thirty-six State institutions would be involved in this program; 6 State universities, 19 Community Colleges, 4 Technical Schools, 6 Technical Colleges, and Washburn University. This bill would cover a full tuition waiver.

A time of questions and answers followed with a number of recommendations being made for changes in the bill. With these recommendations in mind the Revisor will be working on a balloon to be presented to the Committee at a later date. Diane Duffey volunteered to assist Art Griggs with some rewording in the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at 1:30 P.M. on February 6, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Myers closed hearings on HB 2209.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 2:20.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2007.